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# Investigating Sources of Ammonia Uncertainty in Modeling the Salt Lake City PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area



Photo by Aaron Gustafson (CC BY-SA)

## **Investigating Sources of Ammonia Uncertainty in Modeling the Salt Lake City PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area**

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

μg	microgram
°F	Degrees Fahrenheit
°C	Degrees Centigrade or Celsius
AMOX	Ammonia oxidation
BTS	Bureau of Transportation Statistics
C	Compensation point for surface re-emission
CAMx	Comprehensive Air quality Model with extensions
CB6r2h	Carbon Bond 6 photochemical mechanism, release 2 with halogen chemistry
CH <sub>4</sub>	Methane
Cl	Chlorine/chloride
ClNO <sub>2</sub>	Nitryl chloride
CNG	Compressed natural gas
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
DV	Design value
E85	"Flex Fuel" gasoline comprising 85% ethanol by volume (variations allowed in US)
EC	Elemental carbon
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
EQSAM	Inorganic equilibrium particulate chemistry module
FCRS	Fine primary inorganic crustal particulate matter

FPRM	Fine primary inorganic particulate matter
FRM	Federal Reference Method
ft	feet
FTP	Federal Test Procedure
g	gram
H <sub>2</sub>	Hydrogen
H <sub>2</sub> O	Water
HCl	Hydrochloric acid
hp	horsepower
HPDI	High-pressure direct injection
hr	hour
ISORROPIA	Inorganic equilibrium particulate chemistry module
kg	kilogram
km	kilometer
kW	kilowatt
m	meter
m <sup>3</sup>	cubic meter
mg	milligram
MOVES	Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator
MP	Maintenance plan
N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Dinitrogen pentoxide
N <sub>2</sub> O	Nitrous oxide
Na	Sodium
NAA	Nonattainment area
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NEDC	New European Driving Cycle
NH <sub>3</sub>	Ammonia (gas)
NH <sub>4</sub>	Ammonium (particulate)
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
NMB	Normalized mean bias
NME	Normalized mean error (unsigned or gross error)
NO	Nitric oxide
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen dioxide
NO <sub>3</sub>	Nitrate
NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrogen oxides (NO + NO <sub>2</sub> )
O <sub>3</sub>	Ozone
OC	Organic carbon
OA	Organic aerosol
O <sub>x</sub>	Odd oxygen (O <sub>x</sub> = NO <sub>2</sub> + O <sub>3</sub> )
PCAP	Persistent cold air pool
PEMS	Portable Emission Monitoring System
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Particulate matter with aerodynamic diameter less than 2.5 microns
ppb	part per billion
ppm	part per million
R	Resistance to surface deposition
RADM	Regional Acid Deposition Model aqueous inorganic particulate chemistry module
RWC	Residential wood combustion
SCR	Selective Catalytic Reduction
SIP	State implementation plan

SLC	Salt Lake City
SMAT	Speciated Modeled Attainment Test program
SMOKE	Sparse Matrix Operator Kernel Emissions processor
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulfur dioxide
SO <sub>4</sub>	Sulfate
SOA	Secondary organic aerosol
SOAP	Secondary Organic Aerosol chemistry module
TPD	Tons per day
TSD	Technical support document
TWC	Three-way catalyst
UC	Unified Cycle
UDAQ	Utah Division of Air Quality
UDDS	Urban Dynamometer Driving Schedule
ULEV	Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle
USU	Utah State University
UWFPS	Utah Winter Fine Particulate Study
VOC	Volatile organic compound
WaFACO	Wasatch Front Ammonia and Chloride Observations Study
WLTC	Worldwide Harmonized Light Vehicles Test Cycle
WRF	Weather Research and Forecasting model



## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During periodic winter stagnation episodes along the Wasatch Front, 24-hour fine particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) concentrations can exceed the US National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), primarily due to a buildup of ammonium nitrate. Over the past several years, the Utah Division of Air Quality (UDAQ) has developed a photochemical modeling application to support the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and subsequent Maintenance Plan (MP) for the Salt Lake City (SLC) 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> Serious Nonattainment Area. During SIP development, UDAQ found that the model substantially under predicted ammonium nitrate primarily because of a lack of ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) but had little information on likely causes for the NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall, whether by inventory inaccuracies and/or model deficiencies. UDAQ addressed the shortfall by adding additional NH<sub>3</sub> emissions based on model-measurement differences by county, and then holding that additional quantity constant into the future year model projections. The need to supply the model with additional NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from unknown sources presents a major model uncertainty that may affect the accuracy of projected future PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels. This project investigated causes for the apparent NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall and benefitted from the Wasatch Front Ammonia and Chloride Observations (WaFACO) field study conducted by Utah State University (USU) during the winter of 2019. We reviewed NH<sub>3</sub> emission inventories and recently measured concentration patterns; investigated modeling uncertainties and deficiencies, updated the UDAQ model configuration and increased modeled NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from on-road vehicles according to peer-reviewed literature; and re-evaluated modeling results and projected attainment-year PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality.

Based on comparisons to routine field measurements during the January 1-10, 2011 modeling episode, the UDAQ simulation replicated the relative contributions of most PM<sub>2.5</sub> species rather well but under predicted total PM<sub>2.5</sub> at all sites throughout the episode because of a lack of particulate ammonium nitrate, despite the additional NH<sub>3</sub> emissions. The simulated meteorology generally captured the build-up and cessation of the stagnant inversion pattern over the episode. However, comparison of observed and predicted concentrations of carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), which depend on different emission inventory sectors than ammonia, indicated that simulated meteorology did not sufficiently characterize inversion strength/depth, dispersion patterns or the degree of stagnation in time and space. We found that on average NO<sub>x</sub> was under predicted by about 20% during the episode while ozone was consistently over predicted. During mid-episode when PM<sub>2.5</sub> peaked, modeled chemical relationships among NO<sub>x</sub> and ozone pointed to low rates of NO<sub>x</sub> oxidation and the lack of nitrate production. Additionally, we found that even with UDAQ's additional NH<sub>3</sub>, simulated NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations over the basin remained roughly a third of the average 11-12 ppb measured in SLC during the February 2019 WaFACO study.

On the basis of model sensitivity testing, we found that simulated PM<sub>2.5</sub> and most gas concentrations benefitted from reduced vertical mixing, which also reduced the apparent NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall, and likewise benefited from increased snow albedo, which enhances photochemical production of secondary species including nitrate. However, the model was insensitive to the introduction of bi-directional NH<sub>3</sub> surface exchange because the presence of snow cover squelches NH<sub>3</sub> re-emission from soil/vegetation. Additionally, snow enhances NH<sub>3</sub> deposition rates when snow partially melts during the daytime. The model was also insensitive to chemical modifications such as invoking alternative inorganic aerosol chemistry, removal of clouds (maximized solar radiation), increased chloride levels (increased oxidant production), and a scale-up of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to alleviate the episode-average NO<sub>x</sub> under prediction bias.

Simulated NH<sub>3</sub> and ammonium nitrate concentrations responded most favorably when we replaced the UDAQ NH<sub>3</sub> injection with a scale-up of on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions by a factor of ~2, a modification

that is supported by the scientific literature. While the UDAQ NH<sub>3</sub> injection added ~65% to the original total Salt Lake County episodic emission inventory, the on-road NH<sub>3</sub> scale-up added ~40%. Although we found major uncertainties in other NH<sub>3</sub> emission sectors, specifically animal husbandry and landfill/composting facilities, we did not alter those NH<sub>3</sub> emissions because of a lack of information needed to address fundamental issues with emission factors (emission rates per activity unit), a lack in estimated activity (animal head counts, composting volumes) and the manner in which these sources are spatially allocated to the modeling grid (to general landuse categories rather than to specific locations/facilities). In the more rural counties of Box Elder, Weber, Tooele, and Utah under estimates of agricultural NH<sub>3</sub> are likely to be the primary cause for PM<sub>2.5</sub> under predictions.

We conducted a final 2011 base-year simulation for the episode, applying reduced vertical diffusion rates, increased urban snow albedo, and scaled-up on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in lieu of the UDAQ NH<sub>3</sub> injection. While the model continued to under predict total PM<sub>2.5</sub>, particularly at rural monitoring sites, agreement with speciated PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurements improved markedly at the urban monitoring sites relative to UDAQ's simulation. The final model configuration predicted particulate sulfate well and approached the 2019 episode-averaged measured concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> in the Salt Lake basin. However, the model continued to under estimate particulate nitrate by 35%, similarly to UDAQ's results, over all speciated monitoring sites and monitored days. This performance is consistent with and generally better than other PM<sub>2.5</sub> modeling applications in the western US. This case also revealed that carbon emissions from sources such as smoke may be over estimated in the SLC area and that the split among primary organic and elemental carbon emissions may need adjustment at the source-category level.

Finally, we conducted simulations using UDAQ's 2017 and 2019 projected emission inventories, applying the on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> scale-up at the same proportion as 2011, and holding the model configuration and all other model inputs the same as the final base-year simulation described above. Results among UDAQ and Ramboll projected PM<sub>2.5</sub> design values (DV) from 2016-2018 monitored DVs were very similar with no sites projected to exceed the NAAQS. We confirmed that both our and UDAQ's projected cases do result in some small concentration increases for inorganic secondary salts (ammonium, nitrate and sulfate), indicating disbenefit conditions.

Both modeled and measured ozone and NO<sub>x</sub> indicate that the gas-phase chemical environment that generates secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> compounds during exceedance events is NO<sub>x</sub>-saturated and oxidant-lean. This is a separate issue from whether PM<sub>2.5</sub> formation is ammonia- vs. nitrate-limited. In a NO<sub>x</sub>-saturated environment, NO<sub>x</sub> emission reductions can raise oxidant levels, raise secondary PM formation rates, and cause PM<sub>2.5</sub> increases or smaller-than-expected decreases ("NO<sub>x</sub> dis-benefit"). Recent field studies and previous UDAQ analyses indicate the SLC atmosphere is typically in a NO<sub>x</sub>-saturated regime during stagnant inversions and the model behaves consistently with this pattern. This has major implications for accurately projecting future PM<sub>2.5</sub> based on anticipated emission inventory changes. Additionally, our results provide ample evidence to suggest that the inorganic PM<sub>2.5</sub> environment in SLC can vary spatially and temporally between NH<sub>3</sub>-limited and nitrate-limited conditions. The model is therefore responding appropriately to emission reductions with small reductions or increases in PM<sub>2.5</sub>, although its degree of response is affected by uncertainties and could change substantially if the particulate nitrate bias was corrected. Remaining model performance issues are related to the ability of the meteorological model to properly represent weak flow patterns under stagnant inversion conditions, and remaining issues for certain stationary emission sectors, including activity, spatial distribution, temporal allocation, and speciation including the split of primary PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions into specific carbon and non-carbon components.

Based on results from this study, we recommend the following for future research and modeling applications:

- Continue to employ the updates developed in this project for future PM<sub>2.5</sub> modeling analyses, including reduced vertical diffusion rates, increased on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions, and increased snow-covered urban albedo;
- Bring the modeling system forward to a more recent exceedance episode to characterize contemporary PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality along the Wasatch Front and to update future year projections;
- Investigate ways to improve the meteorological simulation of persistent cold air pool (PCAP) episodes along the Wasatch Front, specifically in characterizing inversion depth and strength, three-dimensional dispersion patterns, and boundary layer cloud evolution;
- Improve NH<sub>3</sub> emission inventory and spatial allocation techniques for remaining key sources: livestock agriculture (particularly in more rural counties) and landfill/composting activities;
- Investigate causes for under estimates of NO<sub>x</sub> and chloride emissions;
- Research and implement alternative speciation profiles for wood combustion among organic and elemental carbon and non-carbon smoke components;
- Investigate how the collection of further model updates alter PM<sub>2.5</sub> response to future projected and/or alternative emissions scenarios;
- Further investigate the role of snow in modulating surface-atmosphere NH<sub>3</sub> exchange;

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

Salt Lake City (SLC) and Utah County are designated as Serious Nonattainment Areas (NAA) for the 2006 24-hour fine particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). To support the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for SLC, the Utah Division of Air Quality (UDAQ) demonstrated attainment of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard by the attainment year of 2019 based on photochemical modeling and weight-of-evidence analyses (UDAQ, 2018). On October 28, 2019, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a clean data determination for SLC based on monitoring data for the period 2016-2018 (EPA, 2019a). However, this determination itself does not re-designate the area to attainment, and any future PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS violations will trigger requirements for revised attainment plans. UDAQ has since developed a Maintenance Plan (MP) for SLC that includes future projections of PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality out to 2035 based on the SIP photochemical modeling application (UDAQ, 2020a).

According to the MP, related Technical Support Documents (TSD), and the 2017 Utah Winter Fine Particulate Study (UWFPS; Baasandorj et al., 2018), PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations can exceed the standard during wintertime persistent cold air pool (PCAP) events. Over 70% of exceedance-level PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass is comprised of compounds that are chemically formed in the atmosphere from direct emissions of gas precursors. The dominant PM<sub>2.5</sub> component is ammonium nitrate, formed from ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) emissions and the photochemical processing of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions. UDAQ's photochemical modeling of a historical PCAP event in January 2011 replicated measured PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations and composition adequately well, but only after artificially increasing NH<sub>3</sub> emissions by 200% over the six Wasatch Front counties comprising SLC and Utah NAAs to make up for an apparent lack of inventoried NH<sub>3</sub>. UDAQ made clear that the artificial NH<sub>3</sub> addition is a major model uncertainty that may affect the accuracy of the modeled attainment projections because it impacts the ability to predict how PM<sub>2.5</sub> differentially responds to projected changes in NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. During model development, there was little information on whether the NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall was caused by inventory inaccuracies or model deficiencies. However, peer-reviewed literature (Sun et al., 2014) indicates that the MOVES<sup>1</sup> motor vehicle emission factor model (EPA, 2019b) used by UDAQ under predicts NH<sub>3</sub> emissions. Additionally, the photochemical model employed by UDAQ lacks a "bidirectional" surface NH<sub>3</sub> exchange mechanism, a potentially important mechanism by which NH<sub>3</sub> deposited to the surface can subsequently re-volatilize back to the air.

### 2.2 Purpose and Objectives

In this project we investigated causes for the modeled NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall and tested model improvements that result in a more robust modeling application. Specific activities included:

1. Review current NH<sub>3</sub> inventories and estimation procedures, and spatial and temporal concentration patterns measured during recent (2017 and 2019) winter PCAP field studies;
2. Quantify NH<sub>3</sub> emission uncertainties for key sources, with particular attention to on-road vehicle emissions;
3. Investigate uncertainties in the modeling system, apply an updated model version that includes bidirectional NH<sub>3</sub> exchange with soil and vegetation, and investigate PM<sub>2.5</sub> sensitivity to NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions;
4. Refine modeled NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from information developed above and re-evaluate modeled results against measurements; and

<sup>1</sup> Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES)

5. Compare UDAQ's projections of PM<sub>2.5</sub> for the 2019 attainment year against those from the updated model.

This project benefitted from the Wasatch Front Ammonia and Chloride Observations (WaFACO) field study conducted by Utah State University (USU) during the winter of 2019 (UDAQ, 2020b). The study included weekly-integrated sampling at 40 passive monitors throughout the basin, one real-time monitor placed at two different locations, a mobile van from EPA, and 10 mini-vol filter sites for ionic analysis in targeted areas, with 3-4 co-located sites for elemental and carbon analysis.

### 2.3 A Brief Primer on PM<sub>2.5</sub> Sources and Chemistry

We include this brief overview as background information for the technical discussions that follow. PM<sub>2.5</sub> commonly includes a multitude of primary (directly emitted) and secondary (chemically -formed) inorganic and organic compounds from a large variety of sources. Therefore, photochemical models must address numerous precursor and product chemical species, incorporate complex chemical pathways, and characterize all sources, sinks, and dispersion patterns throughout an airshed to correctly estimate the evolution of PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass budgets. The components of PM include:

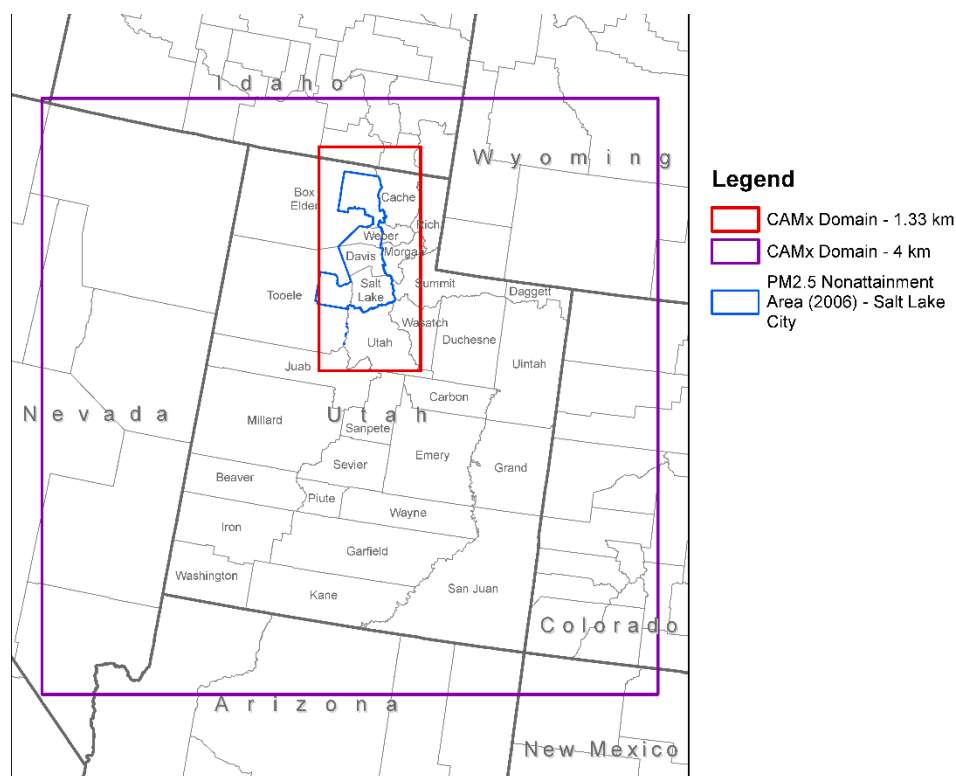
- Primary PM includes dust (from agriculture, mining, construction, windblown, vehicle re-entrainment), inorganic and organic carbon particles from combustion sources (from fires, residential wood combustion, cooking, vehicle exhaust), sodium chloride (NaCl; from oceans and dry lake playas), and other minor components from industrial and commercial activities. Stagnant winds, snow cover and/or wet surfaces limit dust and natural salt emissions during winter PCAP events in the SLC, while cold temperatures amplify primary carbon emissions from residential wood combustion and snow cover may increase emissions from road salting.
- Sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub>) is formed from the oxidation of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions via two pathways: homogeneous gas-phase photochemistry and heterogeneous aqueous-phase reactions with hydrogen peroxide and metal catalysts in cloud water. SO<sub>4</sub> always exists as an aerosol, either sulfuric acid or several neutralized forms, depending on available cations such as NH<sub>3</sub>. While emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> are relatively minor in SLC, sources include industrial processes and diesel exhaust.
- Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) is most commonly formed from the oxidation of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions via two major pathways: homogeneous gas-phase photochemistry and nighttime hydrolysis of photochemically-derived dinitrogen pentoxide (N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>). NO<sub>3</sub> is volatile, existing either as nitric acid gas or a nitrate aerosol when neutralized by available cations such as NH<sub>3</sub> that have not been preferentially taken up by other acids such as SO<sub>4</sub>. NO<sub>x</sub> is a major constituent of pollution in SLC and derives from every source of combustion such as vehicles, commercial and residential activities, and industry.
- The thermodynamic partitioning among inorganic acids (SO<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, hydrochloric acid or HCl) and cations (NH<sub>3</sub>, Na and calcium from dust) is highly complex and depends on the relative amounts of each compound and environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity. When NH<sub>3</sub> is in excess relative to NO<sub>3</sub>, ammonium nitrate (NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>) aerosols can form up to the limit of available NO<sub>3</sub> (a nitrate-limited or sensitive environment); when NO<sub>3</sub> is in excess, the amount of ammonium nitrate depends on available NH<sub>3</sub> (an ammonia-limited or sensitive environment). In either case, the amount of available NH<sub>3</sub> depends on the presence of other acids (SO<sub>4</sub> or HCl).
- Secondary organic aerosols (SOA) are formed from the photochemical processing of aromatic volatile organic compounds (VOC) to intermediate condensable organic gases and subsequent condensation to aerosols depending on volatility, age/oxidation state, and environmental conditions. VOCs are a major constituent of pollution in SLC and derive from combustion and

evaporative sources such as commercial and residential activities, vehicles, and industry. Natural vegetation is another major source of the types of VOCs that generate organic aerosols. However, during winter PCAP episodes, photochemical processing is slow and biogenic emissions are minimal. Therefore, nearly all organic PM in SLC derives from primary emission sources.

The major sinks for PM<sub>2.5</sub> chemical components and their precursors include dry deposition to the surface and wet deposition by precipitation. Dry deposition refers to the irreversible gravitational settling of PM and the chemical uptake of gases onto surface features such as vegetation, soil, snow, and structures. Wet deposition refers to the uptake of aerosols and gasses into clouds and the scavenging of cloud droplets, ambient aerosols and gases by precipitation. While aerosols and highly soluble gases such as nitric and hydrochloric acids are irreversibly removed by precipitation, other less-soluble gases can release back to the air when the aqueous solution exceeds saturation.

### 3.0 MODELING DATABASE

The UDAQ photochemical modeling application employs the Comprehensive Air quality Model with extensions (CAMx; Ramboll, 2020), version 6.3. The modeling domain consists of a nested grid system with 1.33 km resolution over the SLC NAA and 4 km resolution over the State of Utah (Figure 3-1). UDAQ applied CAMx to simulate the evolution of pollutant concentrations during a historic PCAP event during January 1-10, 2011. The University of Utah (Crossman and Foster, 2016) developed requisite meteorological inputs for the episode using the Weather Research and Forecasting Model, version 3 (WRF; Skamarock et al., 2008). UDAQ prepared emission inputs for the episode based on triennial 2011 and 2014 statewide inventories and projected the latter to several future years accounting for growth in population and sector-specific activity, on-road vehicle fleet turnover, and current and anticipated emission controls on stationary sources (UDAQ, 2018; 2020). UDAQ processed emissions inventory data to model-ready inputs using the Sparse Matrix Operator Kernel Emissions (SMOKE; CMAS, 2019) processing system, version 3.6.5.



**Figure 3-1. The UDAQ nested modeling grids with 4 km grid resolution (outer domain) and 1.33 km grid resolution (inner domain). The SLC NAA is shown for reference.**

While developing the modeling system, UDAQ implemented several modifications to improve model performance in replicating the temporal and spatial patterns of measured PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations and composition over the January 2011 episode. Table 3-1 lists the model configuration and modifications implemented by UDAQ; we summarize these below and details are given in the MP (UDAQ, 2020a) and attendant TSDs. One of UDAQ's early modifications involved artificially enhancing the strength and depth of vertical mixing throughout the episode to compensate for over predictions in directly emitted PM<sub>2.5</sub> components such as road dust. Suspecting that road dust emissions were grossly over estimated, and based on recommendations from EPA, UDAQ later reduced emissions from that sector by 93%. Although this eliminated a key motivation for enhanced vertical mixing, UDAQ preserved

**Table 3-1. CAMx v6.3 configuration for the SLC PM<sub>2.5</sub> modeling system with UDAQ modifications.**

<b>CAMx Process</b>	<b>V6.3 Model Configuration</b>	<b>Model/Input Modifications</b>
Advection Solver	Piecewise Parabolic Method	
Gas-Phase Chemistry	Carbon Bond 6 revision 2, with full halogen chemistry (CB6r2h)	
Chemistry Solver	Euler Backward Iterative	
PM Chemistry	2-mode Coarse/Fine, ISORROPIA v1.7 inorganic chemistry (solid+liquid aerosols), RADM aqueous inorganic chemistry, SOAP v1 organic chemistry	
Dry Deposition	Zhang (2001, 2003)	
Wet Deposition	Active	
Vertical Diffusion	Standard K-theory	Increased minimum vertical diffusion rates through 600 m
Surface Albedo		Set minimum urban snow cover fraction = 88%
Dry Deposition		Reduced NH <sub>3</sub> deposition by changing surface resistance from 0 (no resistance) to 1 (full resistance)
Dry Deposition		Set ozone deposition to zero
NH <sub>3</sub> Emissions		Injected additional county- level NH <sub>3</sub>
Cloud Inputs		Reduced cloud water content of low-altitude clouds over Salt Lake County by 80%

enhanced mixing to the final configuration. One of the most significant modifications involved a large increase in NH<sub>3</sub> emissions by county (by about 65% in Salt Lake County alone) in order to alleviate a large under prediction of ammonium nitrate. The fact that modeled ammonium nitrate concentrations responded so favorably to this change verified that the modeled chemical environment was incorrectly simulating NH<sub>3</sub>-limited rather than nitrate-limited conditions as commonly measured in the basin (Baasandorj et al., 2018). But enhanced mixing may have contributed to the large quantity of additional NH<sub>3</sub> needed to reach observed levels. Later, UDAQ reduced the water content of low-altitude clouds over Salt Lake County by 80%, which reduced aqueous sulfate production rates and a related sulfate over prediction bias.

All of the changes described above were made to the emissions and meteorological inputs to CAMx. UDAQ also made the following modifications directly to the CAMx model:

- Setting minimum urban snow cover fraction to 88% as a way to increase net urban surface albedo (solar reflectivity) from the original range of 25-60% to a more representative range of 60-70% (based on albedo measurements of 60-90% during the episode);
- Reducing NH<sub>3</sub> surface deposition rate in order to maintain elevated NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations and further improve model performance for ammonium nitrate (per Ramboll's recommendations);



- Zeroing ozone surface deposition in order to maintain elevated ozone concentrations and promote oxidant chemistry and associated aerosol formation (based on field measurements in the winter Uinta Basin reported by Helmig et al., [2014]).

In this project we investigated several specific hypothetical causes for the NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall in UDAQ's photochemical modeling application:

- The lack of a bidirectional surface-atmosphere NH<sub>3</sub> exchange in CAMx and any mitigating influence of snow cover on NH<sub>3</sub> deposition rates;
- Under estimates of on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions generated by the MOVES model, especially in the cold environment of SLC PCAP episodes;
- Potential under estimates of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from various sectors, including livestock/agriculture, landfills, wastewater treatment, and residential wood combustion.

### 3.1 Replicating the UDAQ 2011 Base Case

UDAQ provided their entire modeling system to Ramboll, including their modified CAMx v6.3 source code (as described above), all model data inputs and outputs, key pre-processing scripts, 2011 PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurement data for model validation, all supporting files/datasets for SMOKE emissions processing, and all files associated with MOVES on-road emissions modeling. We ran the system using UDAQ's CAMx model for the December 31 – January 10, 2011 base case episode and confirmed that we successfully replicated UDAQ's results for each chemical species, in each grid cell of the two nested three-dimensional grids, during each hour of the modeling period, to within machine accuracy (single precision floating point differences within 1 in 10,000)<sup>2</sup>.

### 3.2 Updating the Model Version

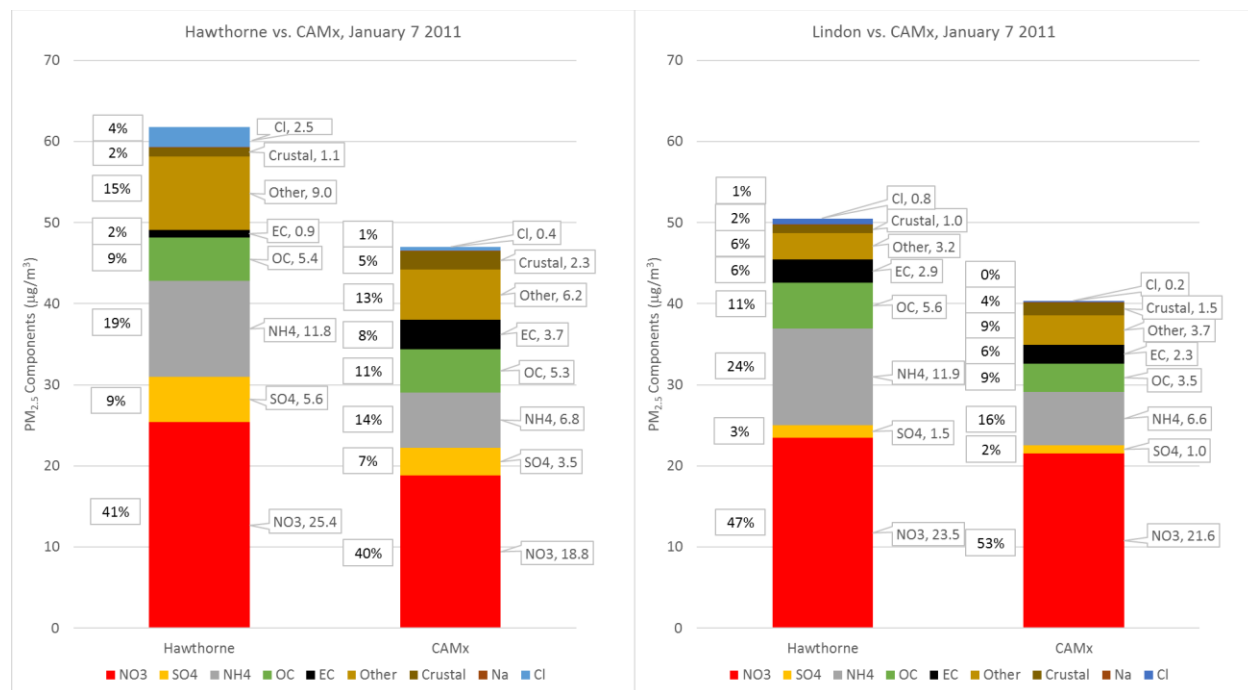
Ramboll publicly released CAMx v6.3 in 2016 when UDAQ began developing the SLC PM<sub>2.5</sub> modeling application. Since then we have released three subsequent CAMx versions that include several updates and improvements. In this study we applied the latest CAMx version (v7.0) to take advantage of these updates, including a new NH<sub>3</sub> bidirectional surface algorithm.

We conducted an initial "replication" run using CAMx v7.0 and compared results to v6.3 output to quantify impacts between the different model versions. We employed the same model configuration as v6.3; to ensure consistency, we also implemented the same UDAQ code modifications listed in Table 3-1. The only material differences from v6.3 included an update to SOA chemistry from SOAP v1 to SOAP v2.2 (Ramboll, 2020) and other minor updates to RADM and ISORROPIA aerosol chemistry introduced in v6.4. Given the small proportion of SOA relative to primary organic emissions in this case, the effects from the SOAP update were expected to be negligible, as were the updates to RADM and ISORROPIA. We verified that the update to v7.0 resulted in only inconsequential differences in PM<sub>2.5</sub> species concentrations relative to our v6.3 run. Specifically, v7.0 resulted in slightly higher organic aerosol, slightly lower inorganic secondary species, and zero differences in other primary PM<sub>2.5</sub>, overall leading to insignificantly higher PM<sub>2.5</sub>. We concluded from this replication run that there was no significant impact from updating the model version.

Figure 3-2 compares modeled 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> species concentrations against measurements at two sites, Hawthorne and Lindon, on January 7 when total PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations peaked during the episode.

<sup>2</sup> When extracting and reporting gridded PM<sub>2.5</sub> results at the coordinates of monitoring sites, we were not able to reproduce UDAQ's extracted values. Subsequent investigation revealed that UDAQ applied a slightly different map projection to calculate grid coordinates at monitor locations; we verified that we could replicate UDAQ's results when using their coordinates for the Hawthorne PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring site. However, we have used our site coordinates for all analyses described in this report, and therefore results presented here differ somewhat from those presented in the SLC PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP, MP and associated TSDs.

The figure is arranged to display component and total PM<sub>2.5</sub> in terms of both absolute concentrations and relative contributions. To make these comparisons, we converted CAMx total (primary plus secondary) organic aerosol (OA) concentrations to an organic carbon equivalent (OC) by dividing by 1.6 following UDAQ's approach. We then summed the CAMx non-carbon fraction of OA (i.e., OA-OC, containing oxygen, hydrogen, etc.) and non-crystal fine primary species (FPRM) to form the "Other" species shown in Figure 3-1. Finally, we mapped the CAMx fine crustal species (FCRS) directly to "Crustal" species in shown in Figure 3-1.



**Figure 3-2. Comparison of modeled PM<sub>2.5</sub> species concentrations from the CAMx v7.0 replication run against measurements at Hawthorne (left) and Lindon (right) monitoring sites on January 7, 2011. Boxed values to the right of each stacked bar indicate the absolute concentration (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) and boxed values to the left indicate percent contribution to total PM<sub>2.5</sub>.**

Generally, CAMx replicated the relative contributions of most species rather well but under predicted total PM<sub>2.5</sub> at both sites because of a lack of particulate NO<sub>3</sub> and associated NH<sub>4</sub>. Sulfate and the minor contribution from particulate chloride (Cl) were also under predicted while the minor contribution from crustal was over predicted. Although sodium (Na) is included in the chart, it is not visible because concentrations were typically less than 0.1 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Figure 3-1 shows that the sum of elemental carbon (EC), OC and Other, which we can assume is nearly all associated with carbonaceous aerosol, was well replicated at both sites (15.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup> modeled vs. 15.2 µg/m<sup>3</sup> observed at Hawthorne, 9.5 µg/m<sup>3</sup> modeled vs. 11.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup> observed at Lindon). This suggests that the estimate of total carbon emissions from major primary carbon sources such as smoke is generally correct, but that the split among OA and EC emissions may need adjustment.

Table 3-2 lists statistical performance for individual 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> species averaged over all three speciated monitoring sites (Hawthorne, Lindon, Bountiful) and all 10 monitored site-days when speciated measurements were available. We calculated normalized mean bias (NMB) and normalized mean unsigned error (NME) according to:

$$NMB = \frac{\sum(P_j - O_j)}{\sum O_j} \times 100$$

$$NME = \frac{\sum|P_j - O_j|}{\sum O_j} \times 100$$

where  $P$  represents a model prediction at site/day  $j$ ,  $O$  is a measurement at site/day  $j$ , and the summation is over all site-days. NMB and NME are compared to statistical “criteria” recently compiled by Emery et al., (2016) to provide some context. These criteria indicate statistical values that most modeling applications documented in peer-reviewed literature over the past 15 years have achieved, while values beyond the criteria are considered poor performers for the particular metric. Note that certain species exhibited very large NMB and NME values, suggesting rather poor replication of measurements. However, the highest errors were associated with species that had small to negligible contributions to the PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass budget. When NMB was weighted by the measured relative contributions from each species (Table 3-3), the large errors in minor components were reduced substantially, revealing their actual insignificant contribution to overall PM<sub>2.5</sub> bias.

**Table 3-2. Statistical performance for speciated and total 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations over all measured site-days of January 1-10, 2011 for the initial CAMx v7.0 replication run. Statistical performance criteria from Emery et al. (2016) are also shown for context. Statistics within the criteria are displayed as green, those outside are displayed as red.**

Species	NMB	NME	Criteria NMB	Criteria NME
NO <sub>3</sub>	-37%	38%	<±65%	<115%
SO <sub>4</sub>	-17%	33%	<±30%	<50%
NH <sub>4</sub>	-47%	49%	<±30%	<50%
OC	-16%	29%	<±50%	<65%
EC	56%	75%	<±40%	<75%
Other	-49%	50%	N/A	N/A
Crustal	86%	102%	N/A	N/A
Na	143%	143%	N/A	N/A
Cl	-78%	78%	N/A	N/A
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	-33%	35%	<±30%	<50%

Speciated measurement data were available on the following dates: Hawthorne: January 1, 5, 7, 9; Lindon: January 3, 5, 7, 9; Bountiful Viewmont: January 3, 9.

Figure 3-3 shows time series of modeled and measured total 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> at six Federal Reference Method (FRM) monitoring sites in the Salt Lake and Utah Lake Basins. Table 3-4 presents PM<sub>2.5</sub> NMB and NME over the entire episode at each site and for the average among all sites. The model consistently under predicted PM<sub>2.5</sub> at all sites throughout the episode but tended to capture the inter-daily variations, which suggests that the simulated meteorology was generally capturing the build-up and cessation of the stagnant inversion pattern over the episode. Statistical performance was generally consistent among the monitoring sites, except for Brigham City and Ogden, which exhibited particularly large under prediction biases to the north of SLC. NMB and NME are numerically identical (different signs), indicating that all model error was associated with the systematic under prediction bias.

**Table 3-3. Mass-fraction weighted contribution of species NMB from Table 3-2 to total PM<sub>2.5</sub> NMB. Average mass fractions are determined from all measured site-days.**

Species	% PM <sub>2.5</sub> Mass	Weighted NMB
NO <sub>3</sub>	43%	-16%
SO <sub>4</sub>	5%	-1%
NH <sub>4</sub>	18%	-8%
OC	10%	-2%
EC	3%	2%
Other	17%	-8%
Crustal	2%	2%
Na	0%	0%
Cl	3%	-2%
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	100%	-33%

**Table 3-4. Statistical performance for total 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at FRM sites in the Salt Lake and Utah Lake Basins over January 1-10, 2011 for the initial CAMx v7.0 replication run.**

FRM Site	NMB	NME
Hawthorne	-31%	31%
Lindon	-33%	33%
Bountiful	-35%	35%
Brigham City	-67%	67%
Ogden	-42%	42%
Tooele	-27%	27%
All Sites	-37%	37%

Figure 3-4 shows time series of modeled and measured hourly gas concentrations at the Hawthorne monitoring site. Table 3-5 presents hourly gas NMB at the same site over the entire episode. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a good tracer for combustion sources and given its slow rate of oxidation can be considered practically inert in this situation. Therefore, CO is useful to assess the combination of estimated emissions and simulated dispersion. Up through January 7, simulated CO was out of synch with observations, as the model was too low on high CO days and vice versa. This implies poor replication of inversion strength/depth, dispersion patterns and/or inaccuracies in allocating daily CO emissions spatially and temporally. However, peak CO over the period was comparable to measurements and Hawthorne NMB over the entire episode is practically zero, indicating that daily CO emissions were generally well-quantified.

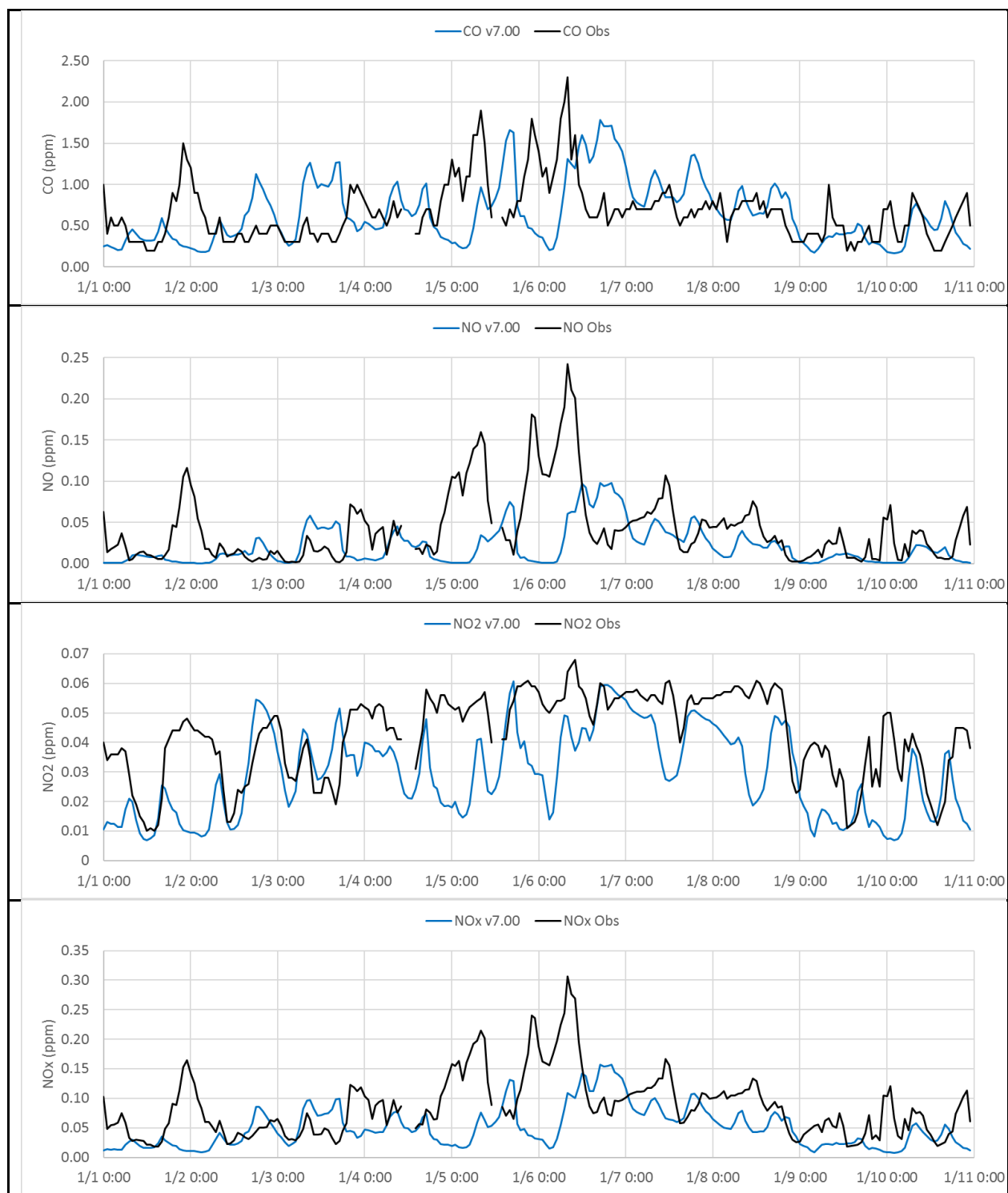
Nitric oxide (NO) is directly emitted from combustion sources and is transformed to nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) depending on the availability of ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). NO tended to be under predicted, especially on January 5 and 6 when observed NO reached very high levels (100-250 ppb) in the night and morning hours as seen for CO. This indicates that either (1) simulated NO emissions were too low, (2) there was insufficient stagnation to build up NO, and/or (3) modeled O<sub>3</sub> was abundant to transform NO to NO<sub>2</sub>. But simulated NO<sub>2</sub> also exhibited an under prediction tendency, and as seen in the NO<sub>x</sub> plot



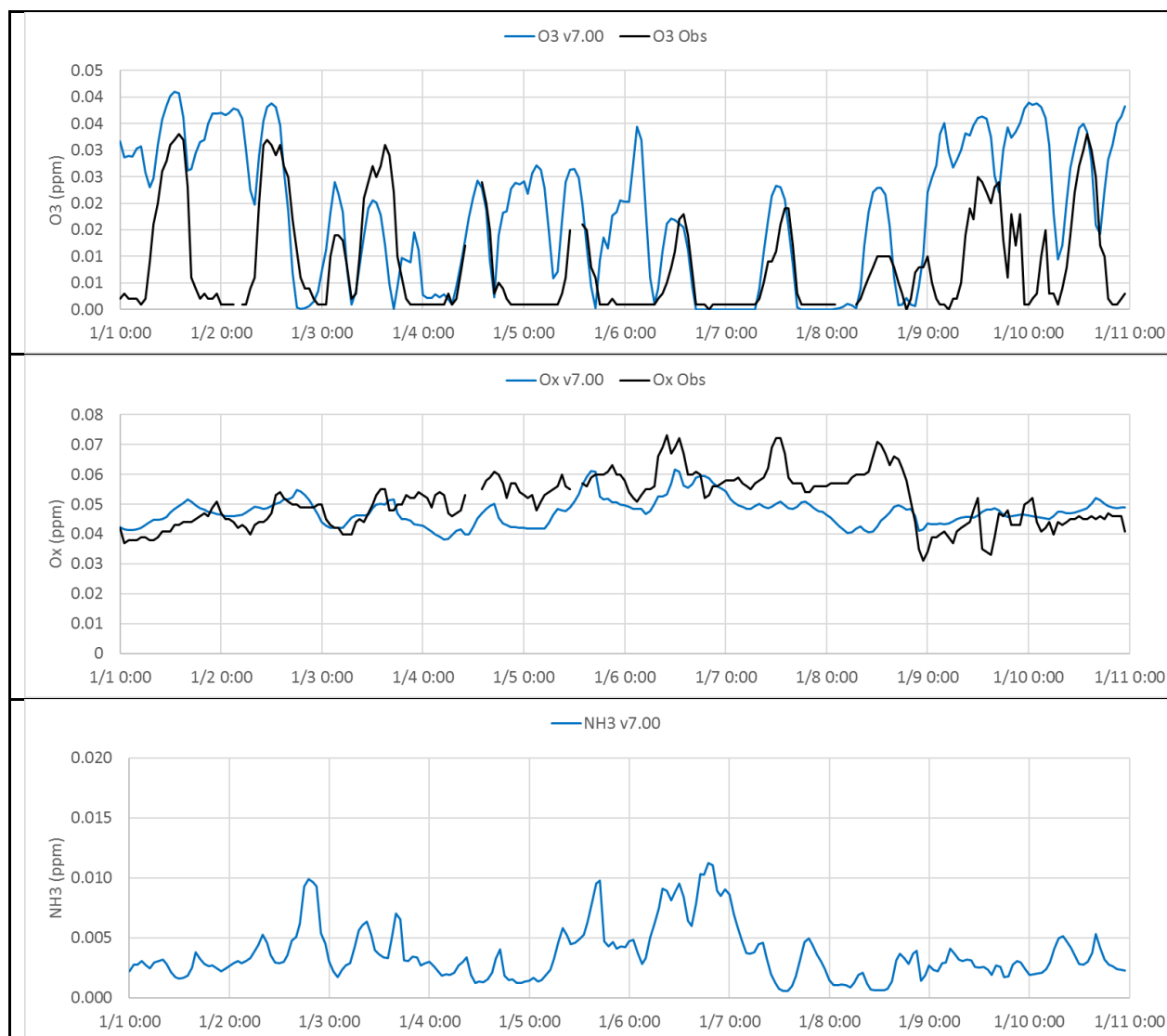
**Figure 3-3. Time series of modeled (blue) and measured (black) total PM<sub>2.5</sub> at six FRM sites in the Salt Lake and Utah Lake Basins. The 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard is shown as the horizontal red line.**

**Table 3-5. Statistical performance for hourly gas concentrations at the Hawthorne monitoring site over January 1-10, 2011 for the initial CAMx v7.0 replication run.**

Gas Species	NMB
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1%
Nitric Oxide (NO)	-50%
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	-30%
Nitrogen Oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> )	-40%
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	125%
Odd Oxygen (O <sub>x</sub> )	5%



**Figure 3-4. Time series of modeled (blue) and measured (black) hourly gases at the Hawthorne monitoring site. Measurements of NH<sub>3</sub> are unavailable and modeled results are shown for context.**



**Figure 3-4 (concluded).**

(NO+NO<sub>2</sub>), there was insufficient NO<sub>x</sub> buildup at Hawthorne. These leaves only (1) and (2) as viable causes for low NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations.

Time series for simulated O<sub>3</sub> tended toward observed conditions during the middle of the episode when PM<sub>2.5</sub> peaked, but generally O<sub>3</sub> was over predicted during the midday and throughout inversion build-up and cessation. The model correctly simulated the complete chemical removal of O<sub>3</sub> during certain mid-episode night and morning hours as it reacted with NO to form NO<sub>2</sub>. Odd oxygen (Ox = NO<sub>2</sub> + O<sub>3</sub>) allows us to evaluate the chemical processing between NO<sub>x</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>. During mid-episode, Ox transitioned from slight over predictions to under predictions. It was particularly low on January 7 and 8 when the largest under predictions of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and nitrate occurred – this establishes a link relating low rates of NO<sub>x</sub> oxidation and the lack of nitrate production.

Finally, simulated NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations ranged from a few ppb to a peak of 10 ppb during the highest PM<sub>2.5</sub> days, with an episode average of ~4 ppb. This simulated range was consistent with past

measurements at one site in February 2016 as presented in the UDAQ MP. However, it was roughly a third of the average 11-12 ppb measured in SLC during the February 2019 WaFACO study.

In summary, details in temporal/spatial allocation and/or a poor characterization of inversion depth/strength and dispersion patterns may have caused a poor replication of measured CO time series, under predictions of NO<sub>x</sub> and over predictions of O<sub>3</sub>, particularly during the middle of the episode. Obviously, the same meteorological issues influence simulated NH<sub>3</sub> patterns. The lack of NO<sub>x</sub> may also be caused in part by emission under estimates, and according to O<sub>x</sub> patterns, the model lacks NO<sub>2</sub> generation and therefore likely further oxidation to NO<sub>3</sub>. Additional chemical processing would help generate more NO<sub>3</sub> on highest PM<sub>2.5</sub> days.



## 4.0 TESTING MODEL IMPROVEMENTS

This section describes the numerous model tests that Ramboll conducted with CAMx v7.0 to assess sensitivity to various improvements that we identified based on review of UDAQ's modeling configuration, modifications, emission inputs, and CAMx performance against available measurements.

### 4.1 Physical Processes

#### 4.1.1 Vertical Mixing

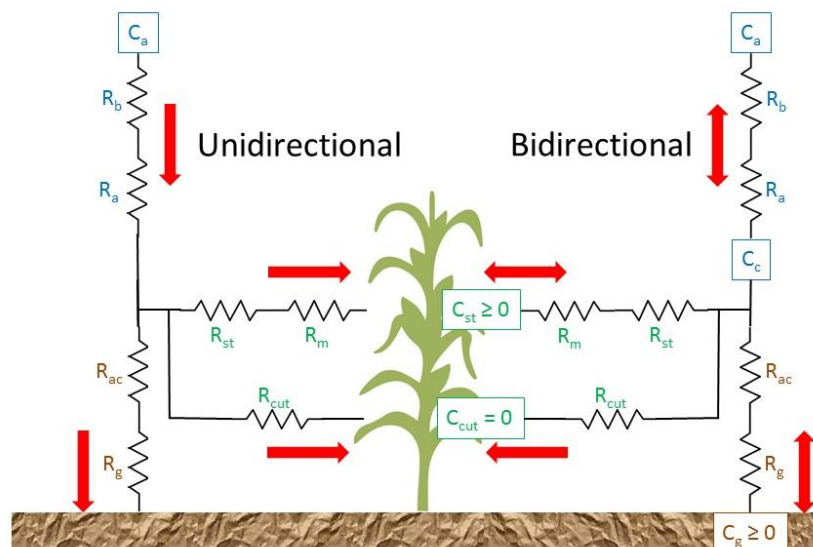
As described in Section 3, UDAQ increased vertical mixing rates and depths early during the development of their modeling configuration. Specifically, UDAQ achieved this by setting minimum vertical diffusion coefficients, or "diffusivities", in urban areas to levels that ensure some mixing through the lowest 600 m (~2000 ft) throughout all hours of the episode. This amount and depth of mixing is excessive when considering that under stagnant, strong inversion conditions emissions should be trapped in a shallow (100-200 m) urban surface boundary layer. Over mixing in the model is evident from the time series of gas concentrations shown in Section 3: CO and NO<sub>x</sub> under predictions indicate too much upward mixing of emissions, and excessive O<sub>3</sub> indicates too much downward mixing of O<sub>3</sub> from aloft. UDAQ increased mixing rates around the same time they increased NH<sub>3</sub> emissions and so it is possible that the NH<sub>3</sub> emissions shortfall, and thus the amount added to the emission inventory, were over estimated. In other words, the same chemical improvement may be achieved with a lower quantity of NH<sub>3</sub> emitted into a shallower mixed layer.

We conducted two model tests to identify an optimum level of diurnal mixing that minimized the NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall without negatively impacting model-measurement agreement for other precursor gas and PM<sub>2.5</sub> component concentrations. We reduced minimum (nighttime) urban boundary layer depths to more physically appropriate values of 100 and 200 m. This change improved under predictions of the major secondary PM species (NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>), OC, Other mass, total PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and NH<sub>3</sub> (by 5-10 ppb) at all sites, while slightly worsening over predictions of the minor primary PM<sub>2.5</sub> components EC and Crustal. Ozone over predictions slightly improved while CO exhibited more over predictions, especially during nighttime hours. PM<sub>2.5</sub> increased by more than 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> on some days at Hawthorne. Since only urban mixing was impacted in both the UDAQ configuration and in these tests, there were negligible to zero impacts at more rural sites such as Tooele where PM<sub>2.5</sub> remained quite low.

Conclusion: We continued to apply reduced vertical diffusion rates for all remaining simulations.

#### 4.1.2 Dry Deposition and Bi-directional Surface NH<sub>3</sub> Exchange

The CAMx photochemical model includes the process of "dry deposition", which refers to diffusive transfer of gases and particulates from the model's lowest atmospheric layer to the surface. This process is analogous to the flow of electric current through resistors along a circuit. Dry deposition normally addresses the irreversible uptake of those compounds by surface elements (vegetation, soil, water, snow) according to chemical-specific attributes. Until recently, the CAMx dry deposition process has been strictly a removal process for all chemical species, based on the approach of Zhang et al. (2003). Ramboll has recently added the bidirectional NH<sub>3</sub> algorithm of Zhang et al. (2010) and Whaley et al. (2018) to CAMx v7.0. Implemented directly within the dry deposition function, the new approach assigns NH<sub>3</sub> "emission potentials" by land cover type that determine temperature-dependent compensation points along the circuit (Figure 4-1) and thus the direction and magnitude of the net NH<sub>3</sub> exchange between the lowest atmospheric model layer and surface elements. Under conditions of high



**Figure 4-1. Right side shows a schematic of the bidirectional NH<sub>3</sub> deposition/re-emission scheme of Zhang et al. (2010) and Whaley et al. (2018); left side shows the original unidirectional deposition scheme of Zhang et al. (2003). Respective pathway resistances (R) and bidirectional compensation points (C) are shown.**

compensation points relative to atmospheric concentrations, the net exchange is from the surface to the atmosphere, i.e. emission; when atmospheric concentrations are high relative to the compensation points, the net exchange is to the surface, i.e., deposition. In all cases with non-zero emission potential, NH<sub>3</sub> deposition rates to the surface are reduced (or reversed) relative to the original deposition function that implicitly assumes zero emission potential. Therefore, use of the bidirectional NH<sub>3</sub> process can potentially increase the buildup of atmospheric concentrations.

We invoked the Zhang bidirectional scheme using default emission potentials by landcover type according to Whaley et al. (2018). To our initial surprise, we found that NH<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>, particulate NO<sub>3</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations were not impacted. Based on review of the Zhang source code, we found that snow cover defeats the bidirectional treatment for all land cover types except for a few categories with large wintertime leaf area index that extend above the snow (e.g., pine forests, which are assigned small emission potentials and well removed from the central basin).

In fact, additional CAMx tests revealed that the Zhang scheme actually increases NH<sub>3</sub> deposition rates into snow relative to no-snow conditions because daytime snow melt absorbs more of this very soluble compound into surface liquid water. The bidirectional scheme is unable to account for release of NH<sub>3</sub> from snow when it refreezes at night. Scientific literature on NH<sub>3</sub> surface exchange confirms that such a “breathing” process occurs during the formation and evaporation of liquid dew (Wentworth et al., 2016). We could not find any clear signs for actual diurnal deposition/release of NH<sub>3</sub> from snow according to plots of winter 2016 time series measurements at Neil Armstrong Academy (UDAQ, 2020a). Based on informal inquiries to several nitrogen deposition experts there seems to be little common knowledge on the interaction of snow cover and NH<sub>3</sub> re-emission.

We repeated the bidirectional NH<sub>3</sub> test but with the mitigating effect of snow cover removed to identify the largest potential effect of the scheme. This resulted in small (less than 1 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) increases in ammonium nitrate on some days. So even without snow cover, the default configuration of the bidirectional scheme did not significantly alter simulation results.

**Conclusion:** The presence of snow cover squelches bidirectional NH<sub>3</sub> surface exchange, and in fact enhances surface NH<sub>3</sub> deposition. The maximum potential impact of the CAMx bidirectional scheme in this particular application was insignificant to minor as currently configured and indicated a relatively minor role for surface NH<sub>3</sub> exchange (deposition or re-emission) in the absence of snow cover. We decided to drop this option in all remaining simulations.

## 4.2 Emission Processes

According to the MP, UDAQ estimated county-level NH<sub>3</sub> emission shortfalls from model-measurement concentration differences throughout the SLC NAA and then added those additional emissions uniformly over all hours and across all grid cells representing the basin floor within each county regardless of land cover type. As we understand it, the rationale for this methodology assumed that the NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall is from unknown, potentially un-inventoried sources and thus no a priori knowledge exists about its spatial or temporal distribution. However, enhanced vertical mixing coupled with the expansive area to which additional NH<sub>3</sub> emissions were applied resulted in a massive volume and thus the need for a very large quantity of additional NH<sub>3</sub>. UDAQ reports that the artificial NH<sub>3</sub> injection comprised ~40% of the final Salt Lake County total emissions going into the model, meaning that the injection added ~65% to the original episodic emission inventory. We began this project with the expectation that one to several inventoried NH<sub>3</sub> sources are likely under estimated and thus would be confined to the areas where such activity occurs.

Given the large number of source types that emit NH<sub>3</sub>, and the widely dispersed nature of many of those sources, pinpointing the causes for the NH<sub>3</sub> emissions shortfall is challenging. Agricultural activity is often identified as the largest source, and this remains true in rural areas to the north and south of SLC. Agricultural lands in the NAA have given way to urban sprawl and commercial/industrial uses. Other than agricultural sources, on-road vehicles comprise the largest NH<sub>3</sub> source in the basin.

To reassess the modeled NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall after reducing vertical mixing rates, we removed UDAQ's artificial NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from the CAMx emission input files and re-ran the model. Generally, concentrations of NH<sub>4</sub>, particulate NO<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>4</sub> were reduced back to levels a bit lower than the CAMx v7.0 replication run (i.e., with deep mixing) with no impact on other PM species.

**Conclusion:** This run confirms that additional NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are needed in the model but reducing vertical mixing to more reasonable levels reduces the NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall.

### 4.2.1 On-Road Vehicle Emissions

According to the UDAQ 2011 modeling inventory, on-road vehicles are the dominant winter source of emissions in the SLC NAA. Light-duty gasoline vehicles represent the overwhelming fraction of vehicles, and their NH<sub>3</sub> emission rates have been investigated over many years. Past surveys suggest several conditions that are present in Utah can increase NH<sub>3</sub> emission rates, including high load demands such as climbing grades and acceleration events, cold conditions, and aged vehicles (Durbina et al., 2004). Diesel vehicles with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) equipment inject urea into the exhaust system that thermally decomposes to NH<sub>3</sub> to reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. SCR technology has been evolving since the 2010 model year when diesel NO<sub>x</sub> emission standards first required SCR. SCR catalysts are inefficient below 200°C and NH<sub>3</sub> may "slip" through the catalyst. There are a variety of heavy-duty engine aftertreatment control designs and operating programs that affect average NH<sub>3</sub> emission rates.

Tailpipe NH<sub>3</sub> emission factor estimates in EPA's MOVES2014 model were developed with data from well before 2014. The data available to EPA at that time may not have been able to fully address all

conditions, including cold weather, aging or unmaintained vehicles, unique driving activities, and the latest diesel vehicles using SCR. There are published studies (Sun et al., 2014, 2016) indicating that light-duty vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions may be under estimated by a factor of two under “normal” conditions. While this discrepancy may be related to the age of data upon which MOVES is based, it is also possible that even more NH<sub>3</sub> may be emitted under conditions specific to Utah.

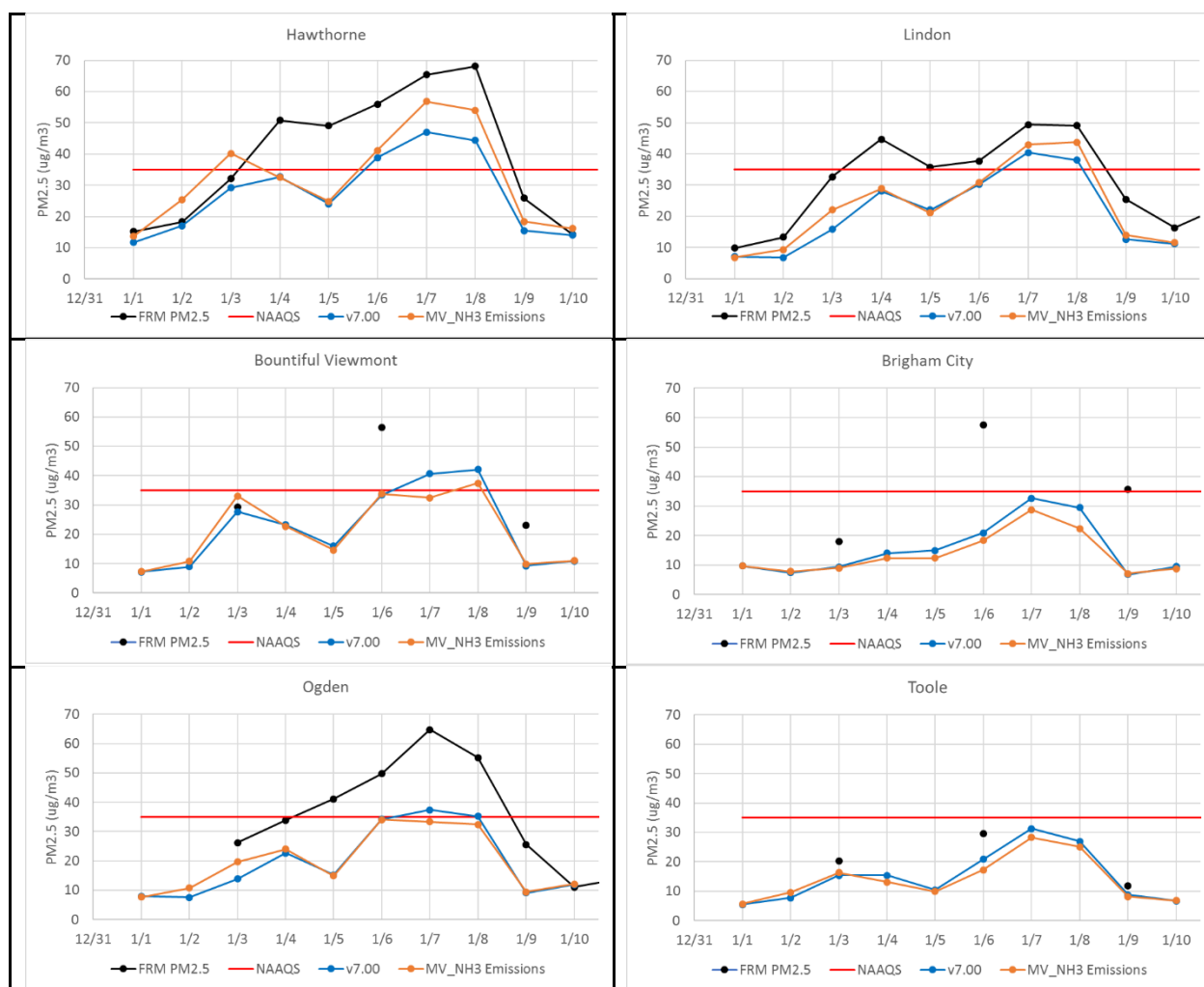
Ramboll conducted a literature review of several publications addressing on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emission measurements. Appendix A presents results from our review. Results for light-duty gasoline vehicles show that aged vehicles, surface street operation and aggressive driving patterns produce substantially higher NH<sub>3</sub> emissions relative to standard test methods upon which the MOVES model is based. Cold starts and cold conditions could result in higher NH<sub>3</sub> emissions as well: measurements at -7°C (20°F) resulted in a 28–47% increase over those at 22°C (72°F). A larger impact occurs for engine load, where just a small percentage of grades or high acceleration modes can cause emission increases by orders of magnitude (Huai et al., 2003). For example, high power test cycles produce 5.5 times more NH<sub>3</sub> than standard (lower power) test cycles. Diesel vehicles generate NH<sub>3</sub> emissions only when equipped with SCR equipment. To meet NO<sub>x</sub> emissions standards SCR was installed only in post-2007 light-duty and post-2010 heavy-duty vehicles. Given the small penetration of SCR into the diesel fleet in 2011, our review indicates that a much larger proportion of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions uncertainty in 2011 is related to light-duty gasoline vehicles, particularly those fleets that include a high proportion of aged vehicles operating in cold conditions. In 2020, a much larger proportion of diesel vehicles are equipped with SCR and so MOVES should reflect higher NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from that sector in UDAQ’s future year emission inventory projection.

We conducted an in-depth review of 2011 day-specific non-diesel exhaust NH<sub>3</sub> emission factors and normalized emission rates (mass of NH<sub>3</sub> emitted per energy produced) generated by UDAQ’s application of the MOVES2014 model and compared them to the published results summarized in Appendix A. The separate effects from cold temperatures and high-load activity (i.e., climbing grades) were not included, and so this analysis just compared emissions under “normal” conditions. From this analysis, we developed NH<sub>3</sub> scaling factors by county (Box Elder, Davis, Salt Lake, Tooele, Utah, Weber), road type (rural and urban, restricted and unrestricted access), vehicle type (motorcycle, passenger car and truck, several truck types, buses, motorhomes) and fuel type (gasoline, ethanol [E85], and compressed natural gas [CNG]) to account for different activity and published emission rates across these four dimensions. We assumed that local gasoline contains 10% ethanol. We applied the resulting matrix of factors to UDAQ’s on-road mobile emission files that are processed by SMOKE to generate temporally and spatially resolved emission inputs for CAMx. Table 4-1 lists the net NH<sub>3</sub> scaling factors by county that account for the mix of activity across all vehicle, fuel, and roadway types. Larger factors were calculated for urban counties because of the higher activity fraction for gasoline, ethanol and CNG vehicles. While the UDAQ NH<sub>3</sub> injection added ~65% to the original Salt Lake County episodic emission inventory, the on-road NH<sub>3</sub> increase added ~40%.

**Table 4-1. Net NH<sub>3</sub> emission scaling factors developed from comparing 2011 normalized emission rates from MOVES2014 to published results summarized in Appendix A.**

County	NH <sub>3</sub> Factor
Box Elder	1.749
Davis	2.034
Salt Lake	2.156
Tooele	1.963
Utah	2.117
Weber	2.274

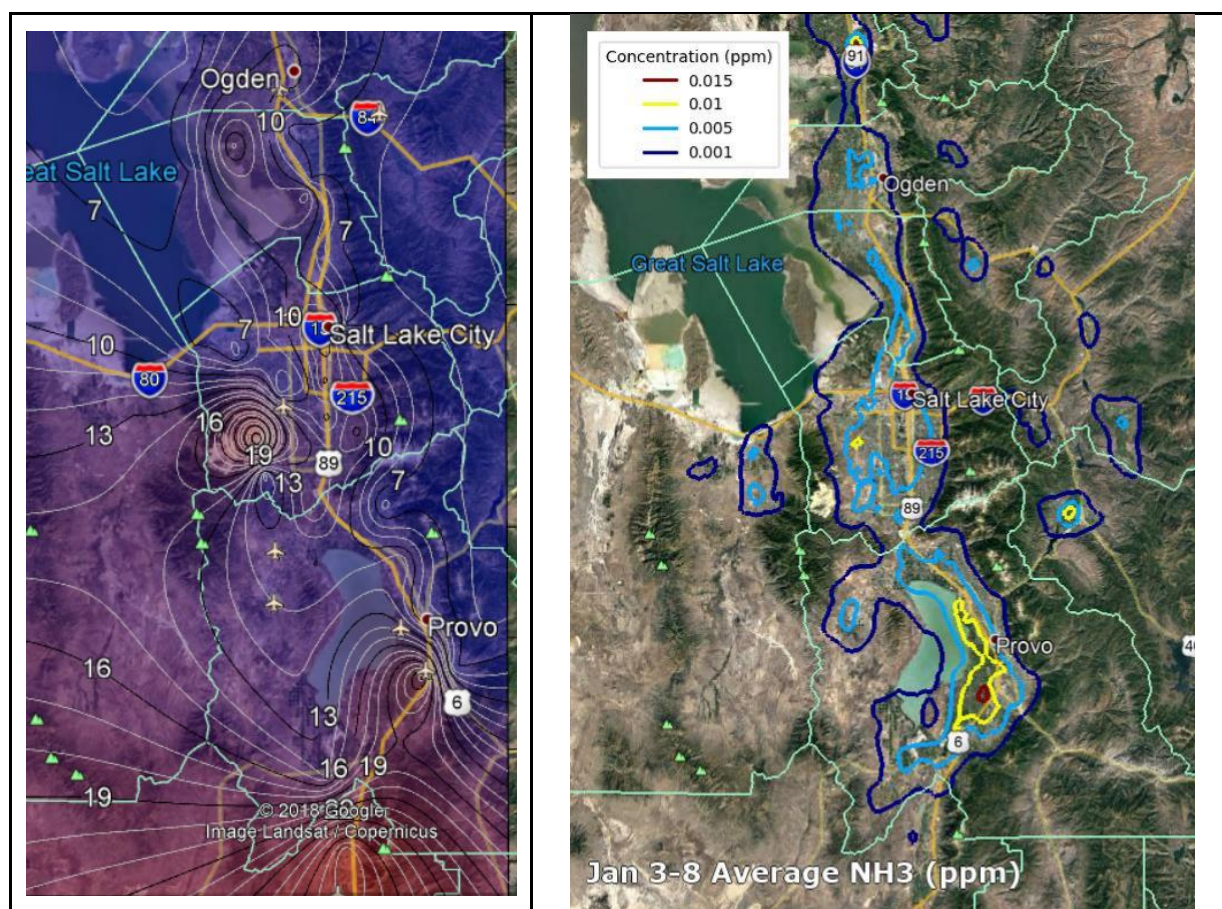
We re-ran CAMx with the scaled on-road NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in lieu of UDAQ's NH<sub>3</sub> injection; this run continued to use reduced vertical diffusion rates. We will refer to this CAMx run as "MV NH<sub>3</sub> Emissions" in the remainder of the report. Figure 4-2 displays model-measurement comparisons of total PM<sub>2.5</sub> at FRM sites similar to those presented in Section 3.2. Particulate NO<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub> concentrations increased substantially relative to the no-injection run described above, but not quite up to levels achieved with the NH<sub>3</sub> injection. These results show that the model simulated a NH<sub>3</sub>-limited (sensitive) environment, since particulate NO<sub>3</sub> responded significantly by removing and adding NH<sub>3</sub> emissions. Total PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at Hawthorne and Lindon improved over the CAMx v7.0 replication run but were slightly lower than the replication run at other FRM sites. Gas NH<sub>3</sub> concentration time series also exhibited a substantial increase over the no-injection run, in better agreement with recent measurements, so not all NH<sub>3</sub> went into particulate NO<sub>3</sub>. This indicates that as more NH<sub>3</sub> is added, gaseous NH<sub>3</sub> may increase at a relatively larger rate than particulate NH<sub>4</sub> and NO<sub>3</sub>, indicating a shift toward a balance between NH<sub>3</sub>-limited vs. NO<sub>3</sub>-limited conditions. Small and infrequent increases in sulfate indicated that more NH<sub>3</sub> also affected aqueous sulfate production by reducing cloud acidity, thereby making aqueous production more efficient.



**Figure 4-2. Time series of CAMx v7.0 replication run (blue), CAMx "MV NH<sub>3</sub> Emissions" run (orange), and measured (black) total PM<sub>2.5</sub> at six FRM sites in the Salt Lake and Utah Lake Basins. The 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard is shown as the horizontal red line.**



Figure 4-3 compares NH<sub>3</sub> concentration patterns averaged over the February 2019 WaFACO study to modeled NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations averaged over January 3-8, 2011, from the “MV NH<sub>3</sub> Emissions” run described above. The model reproduced spatial patterns rather well throughout the Wasatch Front modeling domain. In the Salt Lake Valley, maximum concentrations aligned with population density along the I-15 corridor and in central SLC, showing the dominance of on-road and commercial/industrial sources. By visual inspection, average modeled NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in the core urban area of SLC appear to be well-represented but low by roughly 5 ppb. Measured NH<sub>3</sub> patterns in Davis, Weber and Utah Counties indicate the dominance of agricultural emissions, where the model under predicts NH<sub>3</sub> by more than a factor of 2. This lack of NH<sub>3</sub> could explain much of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> under predictions at Ogden and Brigham City. There remain continued under predictions of ammonium nitrate, and field measurements suggest other important sources that appear to be lacking in the modeling inventory. In the sub-sections that follow, we have compared information inferred from NH<sub>3</sub> measurements to the UDAQ NH<sub>3</sub> emission inventory.



**Figure 4-3. Left side shows the spatial distribution of measured NH<sub>3</sub> (ppb) averaged over the February 2019 WaFACO field study. Right side shows the spatial distribution of CAMx simulated NH<sub>3</sub> (ppm = ppb/1000) averaged over January 3-8, 2011 for the “MV NH<sub>3</sub> Emissions” run.**

**Conclusion:** Scaling up on-road NH<sub>3</sub> emissions resulted in improved agreement with speciated PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurements over the no-injection case, but the model continued to under predict ammonium nitrate. In this case, the modeled PM nitrate response was NH<sub>3</sub>-sensitive.

#### 4.2.2 On-Road Vehicle Emissions in Cold Weather

As described above and in Appendix A, there is scientific literature evidence that on-road NH<sub>3</sub> emissions may increase by up to ~50% in freezing conditions. We conducted a follow-on CAMx sensitivity test where we scaled up on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions by an additional 40% over the increased emissions described in Section 4.2.1. We estimated this particular percentage based on the fraction of gasoline vehicles operating in the Wasatch Front. The objective of this test was to verify if a plausible amount of additional NH<sub>3</sub> emissions result in more PM nitrate or if the model chemistry transitions toward a neutral or nitrate-limited environment.

In this case, PM<sub>2.5</sub> increased by an additional ~2 µg/m<sup>3</sup> at Hawthorne, Bountiful and Ogden during the peak of the episode (January 7 and 8), comprising minor increases among particulate NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub>. Ammonium nitrate under predictions persisted on these days – small effects for such a large rise in NH<sub>3</sub>. In fact, the peak additional 24-hour NH<sub>4</sub> at Hawthorne (0.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup> on January 7) was far less than the additional 24-hour NH<sub>3</sub> at Hawthorne on the same day (2.5-3.7 ppb or 1.6-2.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) by about a factor of 5.

Conclusion: These results confirm a shift towards NO<sub>3</sub>-limited chemistry. The model predicts about the right amount of SO<sub>4</sub> and is approaching the right amount of NH<sub>3</sub> in the SLC basin (based on comparisons to 2019 measurements). The model continues to lack particulate NO<sub>3</sub> by about 30%, which is consistent with if not generally better than other PM<sub>2.5</sub> modeling applications in the western US.

#### 4.2.3 Scaling Up NOx Emissions

Evidence from the tests above indicated that there was insufficient NO<sub>x</sub> from which to derive nitrate. Over the entire episode the model under predicted NO<sub>x</sub> at Hawthorne by about 15% while the diurnal patterns were not in synch with measurements (like CO). We tested the hypothesis that more NO<sub>x</sub> would generate more NO<sub>3</sub> by scaling up all gridded NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 20%; point source NO<sub>x</sub> was not modified as those emissions are well-defined, not widely dispersed throughout the basin, and minor relative to the entire NO<sub>x</sub> inventory. This test included both additional increases in on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions described above (100% for “normal” conditions, 40% for cold conditions).

This CAMx test resulted in mostly decreases in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at the SLC and Lindon monitoring sites, by 1.5-2 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, relative to the run described above in Section 4.4.2. PM<sub>2.5</sub> reductions mostly resulted from lower particulate NO<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub>, and OC also decreased by a very small amount (less than 0.05 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) at these sites. Positive but negligible increases in PM<sub>2.5</sub> resulted at Brigham City, Ogden and Tooele. We verified that NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations increased by ~20% while O<sub>3</sub> decreased daily by 5-10 ppb, in better agreement with measurements.

In the SLC urban zone, the addition of NO<sub>x</sub> in an already NO<sub>x</sub>-rich modeled environment (relative to VOC) further squelched oxidant chemistry and reduced production of NO<sub>3</sub> and SOA. Further, less particulate NO<sub>3</sub> confirmed NO<sub>3</sub>-sensitivity in the modeled urban zone. The minor PM<sub>2.5</sub> increases in the outer areas indicated that those modeled environments remained photochemically NO<sub>x</sub>-sensitive (more efficient oxidation) and so slightly more NO<sub>3</sub> was generated.

Conclusion: The addition of sufficient NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to remove an episode-average NO<sub>x</sub> under prediction bias resulted in lower PM<sub>2.5</sub>, particulate NO<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub> in the SLC urban area, and thus such NO<sub>x</sub> increases are unwarranted. This further indicates that the model simulates a NO<sub>x</sub>-disbenefit environment both in terms of oxidant chemistry and PM<sub>2.5</sub> formation. Additionally, this run confirmed that PM nitrate formation varies between NO<sub>x</sub>-sensitive and NH<sub>3</sub>-sensitive over the episode.

Collectively, the sensitivity tests conducted to this point strengthen evidence for the following remaining issues:

6. The model's inability to sufficiently convert NO<sub>x</sub> to nitrate is caused by a chemical limitation – some possible causes are addressed in Section 4.3 below;
7. As previously discussed in Section 3.1, the meteorological dispersion patterns are not well replicated, limiting the ability to build up secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub>;
8. Daily emissions are not correctly allocated in space and time – other key emission sectors are addressed below.

#### **4.2.4 Area Sources**

Measurements taken during the 2019 WaFACO study exhibit high localized NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations, often approaching 1000 ppb, around active livestock facilities such as dairy farms in Davis, Weber and Utah Counties (as evident in Figure 4-3). We investigated emission estimates for agricultural emissions in the UDAQ 2011 inventory, along with their assigned spatial and temporal allocation. We confirmed that livestock waste is the largest agricultural emissions sector in the winter inventory, while fertilizer application related to crop activities is minimal as expected. In developing model-ready emission files, UDAQ distributes county-level agricultural emissions to general agricultural land use for certain livestock sectors (cattle, swine, poultry, sheep) but we found that other livestock sectors (goats, turkey production, horses/ponies) are assigned to population density. We also confirmed that no livestock emissions are allocated to specific animal husbandry facility locations. Other than the spatial allocation issue, we found no obvious problems with seasonal allocation or annual emission rates.

We also investigated residential wood combustion (RWC) as a possible source of NH<sub>3</sub> uncertainty. UDAQ provides documentation on how RWC emissions were estimated on a daily basis. Based on rather good model performance for PM<sub>2.5</sub> species components that are dominated by wood smoke (EC, OC and Other) we believe that RWC activity, temporal and spatial allocation, and associated PM emission estimates are well characterized in the model. However, it is possible that NH<sub>3</sub> emission factors could be in error. According to the UDAQ emission inventory, RWC NH<sub>3</sub> ranges 10-100 times less than on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions. Any errors in RWC NH<sub>3</sub> emission factors would need to rival on-road emissions to have any effect on simulated NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations, which is implausible.

Conclusion: There are very likely large emission uncertainties associated with the major winter-time NH<sub>3</sub> area source sector (livestock waste). In the more rural counties of Box Elder, Weber, Tooele, and Utah under estimates of agricultural NH<sub>3</sub> could be the primary cause for PM<sub>2.5</sub> under predictions. In SLC, large errors in these sectors (even by factors of 10) would be small relative to total on-road vehicle emissions. We did not modify the area source inventory to address NH<sub>3</sub> from agriculture, because of a lack of information on emission factors, livestock type and headcounts, and spatial allocation to the modeling grid. According to evidence from the 2019 winter field study, no additional significant area emission discrepancies are apparent.

#### **4.2.5 Point Sources**

Measurements taken during the 2019 WaFACO study exhibit high localized NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations around large solid waste landfills, apparently from composting operations. The most significant of these is the Trans-Jordan landfill in the southwest Salt Lake County, as seen by the large measured concentration peak in Figure 4-3. This source is entirely missing in the model's emission inventory. Other landfills exist just south of I-80 west of the I-15 corridor. In fact, the UDAQ modeling inventory reports zero county-level NH<sub>3</sub> landfill emissions and includes only one point source facility with non-zero NH<sub>3</sub> emissions located in Davis County near Hill Air Force Base (0.03 TPD). We found that county-level landfill emissions are assigned to the wide-spread agriculture spatial surrogate in SMOKE processing.



Especially with the recent increase in composting activities, landfills are likely major localized sources throughout the basin.

USU found no obvious NH<sub>3</sub> emissions near wastewater treatment facilities and we confirmed there are no NH<sub>3</sub> emissions for this sector reported in the UDAQ emission inventory. We found a single water reclamation facility listed in the UDAQ point source inventory, located in central SLC, but its NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are set to zero. A Google search reveals several facilities along the I-15 corridor through Salt Lake County generally following river drainage to the Lake. We found that county-level wastewater treatment emissions are assigned to the population spatial surrogate in SMOKE processing.

**Conclusion:** According to field measurements, NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from landfills are likely under reported in the UDAQ inventory yet appear to have a significant localized impact. We did not modify the point source inventory to address NH<sub>3</sub> from landfills because of a lack of information for this sector. Although we identified wastewater reclamation as a potential issue early in the project, this was not apparent in the field measurements and no NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are reported in the UDAQ inventory for this sector. According to evidence from the 2019 winter field study, no additional significant point emission discrepancies are apparent.

### 4.3 Chemical Processes

Evidence from CAMx sensitivity tests to this point indicated that increased NH<sub>3</sub> emissions helped to improve model performance for ammonium nitrate, but further NH<sub>3</sub> increases pushed the chemical environment to neutral or NO<sub>3</sub>-limited conditions. We conducted additional CAMx tests to investigate sensitivities related to the chemical production of NO<sub>3</sub> from NO<sub>x</sub> and the inorganic equilibrium between secondary acids and neutralizing cations.

#### 4.3.1 Inorganic PM Treatment

CAMx v7 includes two inorganic PM thermodynamic algorithms: the original ISORROPIA v1.7 (Nenes et al., 1998, 1999) and EQSAM4clim (Metzger et al., 2016). ISORROPIA was used throughout all of UDAQ's modeling and all of Ramboll's CAMx runs described so far. EQSAM is a new simpler parameterization developed by statistically consolidating results from the fully explicit ISORROPIA algorithm. In this test, we substituted ISORROPIA with EQSAM to understand the choice of algorithm on nitrate performance. This resulted in slightly lower inorganic secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations, especially for nitrate, leading to noticeably lower PM<sub>2.5</sub> on some high observed days such as January 7.

**Conclusion:** We continued to use ISORROPIA for all remaining simulations.

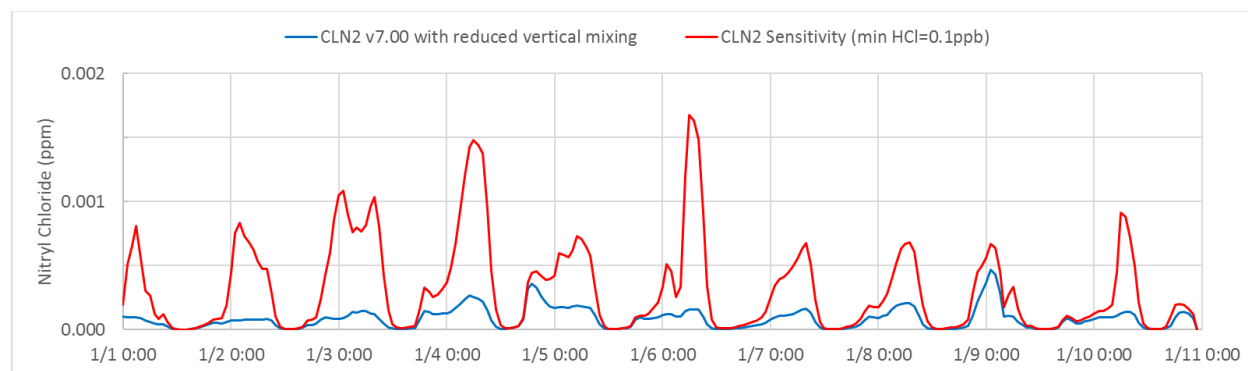
#### 4.3.2 The Role of Nitryl Chloride

The CB6r2h gas-phase chemistry in CAMx includes the formation of nitryl chloride (ClNO<sub>2</sub>) and nitric acid via heterogeneous nighttime reactions among hydrochloric acid (HCl) and N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and the subsequent daytime photolysis of ClNO<sub>2</sub> generating NO<sub>2</sub> and chlorine radicals. UDAQ postulated that a lack of chloride in the model, relative to what is typically observed, may limit the simulated oxidation of NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>3</sub>. There is a large, well-documented industrial chloride source on the west side of the Salt Lake, which could contribute to higher than typical PM chloride levels that could enhance oxidant chemistry in the basin. However, simulated wind fields during the modeling episode do not bring the chloride plume across the Lake and up against the Wasatch Front to the extent that such chloride chemistry would be substantially impactful in the urban areas (UDAQ, 2020a).

We conducted a very simple CAMx sensitivity test to investigate the role of chloride chemistry on PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels, focusing on particulate Cl (which is also under predicted) and the formation of nitrate. Given the lack of chloride emission in the urban corridor, we set an artificial lower bound for HCl concentrations at 0.1 ppb in order to maintain elevated chloride levels throughout the domain. The basis for our choice of 0.1 ppb was guided by the findings from Riedel et al. (2013), who analyzed wintertime ClNO<sub>2</sub> and Cl<sub>2</sub> measurements on a 300 m tall tower in Colorado. From their results specific to Denver urban plume impacts, we expected to produce ClNO<sub>2</sub> at a few tenths of 1 ppb.

Results from this test showed mixed minor PM<sub>2.5</sub> impacts. Small nitrate reductions were balanced by small increases in SO<sub>4</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub>. Markedly higher particulate Cl concentrations resulted in improved agreement with Hawthorne measurements. For example, modeled Cl at Hawthorne on January 7 increased from 0.42 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in the CAMx v7.0 replication run to 1.23 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in this test, compared to 2.51 µg/m<sup>3</sup> observed. NH<sub>3</sub> gas concentrations exhibited a minor reduction, which is consistent with additional SO<sub>4</sub> and particulate chloride, which were both neutralized by NH<sub>4</sub>. Therefore, we speculate that the reduction in particle nitrate reflected a shift of NH<sub>4</sub> to the other acids, rather than any change in nitric acid production. In fact, small increases in Ox indicated that more oxidation did occur with higher HCl via nitryl chloride formation.

Figure 4-4 shows a time series of simulated ClNO<sub>2</sub> at Hawthorne for this test and the CAMx v7.0 replication run with reduced vertical mixing. Concentrations exceeded 1 ppb in the sensitivity case on some days and approached 1 ppb on several other days, which arguably may be the case in SLC given the availability of chloride emissions in the basin and the better agreement with particulate chloride measurements. The unmodified run resulted in ClNO<sub>2</sub> levels of a few tenths ppb, which are consistent with the urban plume results reported by Riedel et al. (2013) without the need for additional chloride.



**Figure 4-4. Time series of modeled hourly gas concentration of ClNO<sub>2</sub> at the Hawthorne monitoring site for the CAMx v7.0 replication run with reduced vertical mixing (blue) and the HCl sensitivity test (red) where background HCl concentration was set to 0.1 ppb.**

**Conclusion:** Although artificially raising HCl levels improved particulate Cl performance, which is arguably appropriate, effects of enhanced chloride chemistry were minor for NO<sub>x</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> and had negligible effects on particle nitrate and total PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Improvements in local chloride emission estimates and in modeling regional transport/dispersion patterns may improve the characterization of chlorides in the basin. The simple enhancement to background HCl was not continued into subsequent model tests.

#### 4.3.3 Snow Albedo

The UDAQ snow modification described in Section 3 increased urban surface albedo to the range of 60-70%. In this test, we directly set snow-covered urban surface albedo to 80% (instead of

modifying snow cover fraction) to be more consistent with 2017 UWFPS albedo measurements and to boost photolysis rates. This change resulted in small (less than 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) increases in ammonium nitrate and much smaller impacts on sulfate and organics. Increased photolysis rates shifted the NO<sub>x</sub> balance slightly (more daytime NO and less NO<sub>2</sub>) and reduced daytime ozone.

Conclusion: The albedo increase had a minor effect, but we continued to include it for all remaining simulations as it is more consistent with observed albedo.

#### **4.3.4 Effects of Clouds**

As described in Section 3, UDAQ modified low-level clouds to reduce aqueous SO<sub>4</sub> production and related sulfate over predictions, with good success. However, clouds remain in the model and can reduce photolysis rates substantially. We conducted a rather artificial sensitivity test in which we completely removed all clouds from the simulation to maximize photolysis and further remove all aqueous SO<sub>4</sub> production. This resulted in a large reduction in PM<sub>2.5</sub> during the main inversion event (January 7-8), especially at the Hawthorne monitoring site. SO<sub>4</sub> concentrations decreased by more than 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  at several urban sites and on several days, with attendant NH<sub>4</sub> reductions, but there were only minor effects on particle nitrate (generally lower by less than 0.1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). Gaseous NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations were somewhat higher (consistent with lower NH<sub>4</sub>) but there were no significant effects on NO<sub>x</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, or Ox. These results again indicate little particle nitrate sensitivity to the increased availability of NH<sub>3</sub> in the NO<sub>3</sub>-limited conditions.

Conclusion: We found little photolysis sensitivity to the removal of clouds and an unwanted reduction in SO<sub>4</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub>. The shift of NH<sub>4</sub> to NH<sub>3</sub> without moving to ammonium nitrate indicates NO<sub>3</sub>-limited conditions where the environment is ammonia-saturated.

## 5.0 FINAL MODEL CONFIGURATION

Based on the sensitivity tests described in Section 4, we selected a final configuration of the model and its inputs that we believe results in the best overall improvements in simulating observed conditions during the January 2011 episode. As described in Section 3.2, the use of CAMx v7.0 leads to only negligible effects on organic and secondary inorganic PM<sub>2.5</sub> species concentrations, despite a major upgrade to organic PM chemistry (SOAP) and minor updates to inorganic and aqueous PM chemistry (ISORROPIA and RADM, respectively). On the other hand, we found large model sensitivity to a reduction in vertical diffusion rates and the replacement of UDAQ's NH<sub>3</sub> emission injection with a scale-up in on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions. We also found smaller sensitivity to an additional 40% scale-up of on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions for cold conditions and an increase in snow-covered urban albedo to 80%. All of these modifications are arguably appropriate and are supported by research in the scientific literature, and therefore we elected to include them in the final configuration. Table 5-1 lists the specific final model configuration and updates.

**Table 5-1. The final CAMx v7.0 configuration for the SLC PM<sub>2.5</sub> modeling application, with UDAQ and Ramboll modifications noted (green text indicates no changes from the original UDAQ configuration, red indicates updates in v7.0 and those explicitly made in this project).**

CAMx Process	V7.0 Model Configuration	Model/Input Modifications
Advection Solver	Piecewise Parabolic Method	
Gas-Phase Chemistry	Carbon Bond 6 revision 2, with full halogen chemistry (CB6r2h)	
Chemistry Solver	Euler Backward Iterative	
PM Chemistry	2-mode Coarse/Fine, ISORROPIA v1.7 inorganic chemistry (liquid-only metastable aerosols), RADM aqueous inorganic chemistry (updated metal-catalyzed and peroxide reactions), SOAP v2.2 organic chemistry	
Dry Deposition	Zhang (2001, 2003)	
Wet Deposition	Active	
Vertical Diffusion	Standard K-theory	Increased minimum vertical diffusion rates through 100 m
Surface Albedo		Set minimum urban snow cover albedo = 80%
Dry Deposition		Reduced NH <sub>3</sub> deposition by changing surface resistance from 0 (no resistance) to 1 (full resistance)
Dry Deposition		Set ozone deposition to zero
NH <sub>3</sub> Emissions		Replaced UDAQ NH <sub>3</sub> injection with scaled-up gasoline MV NH <sub>3</sub> emissions plus additional 40% increase for cold conditions.
Cloud Inputs		Reduced cloud water content of low-altitude clouds over Salt Lake County by 80%

Table 5-2 lists the episodic modeled emission inventory on the single day of January 7, 2011 for six Wasatch Front counties and for the entire 1.33 km modeling grid, aggregated to the four major source sectors. Note that the UDAQ county-specific NH<sub>3</sub> injection totals are listed under the area sector since it was treated as such. Ramboll's final vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> scale-up, which replaces the UDAQ injection, is listed under the on-road mobile sector. The UDAQ injection added 24 TPD over the six NAA counties (200% of the original total inventory), whereas the on-road scaling added only 4 TPD to six counties (34% of the original total inventory), which combined with reduced vertical mixing achieved similar or slightly better results for ammonium nitrate in the central SLC area.

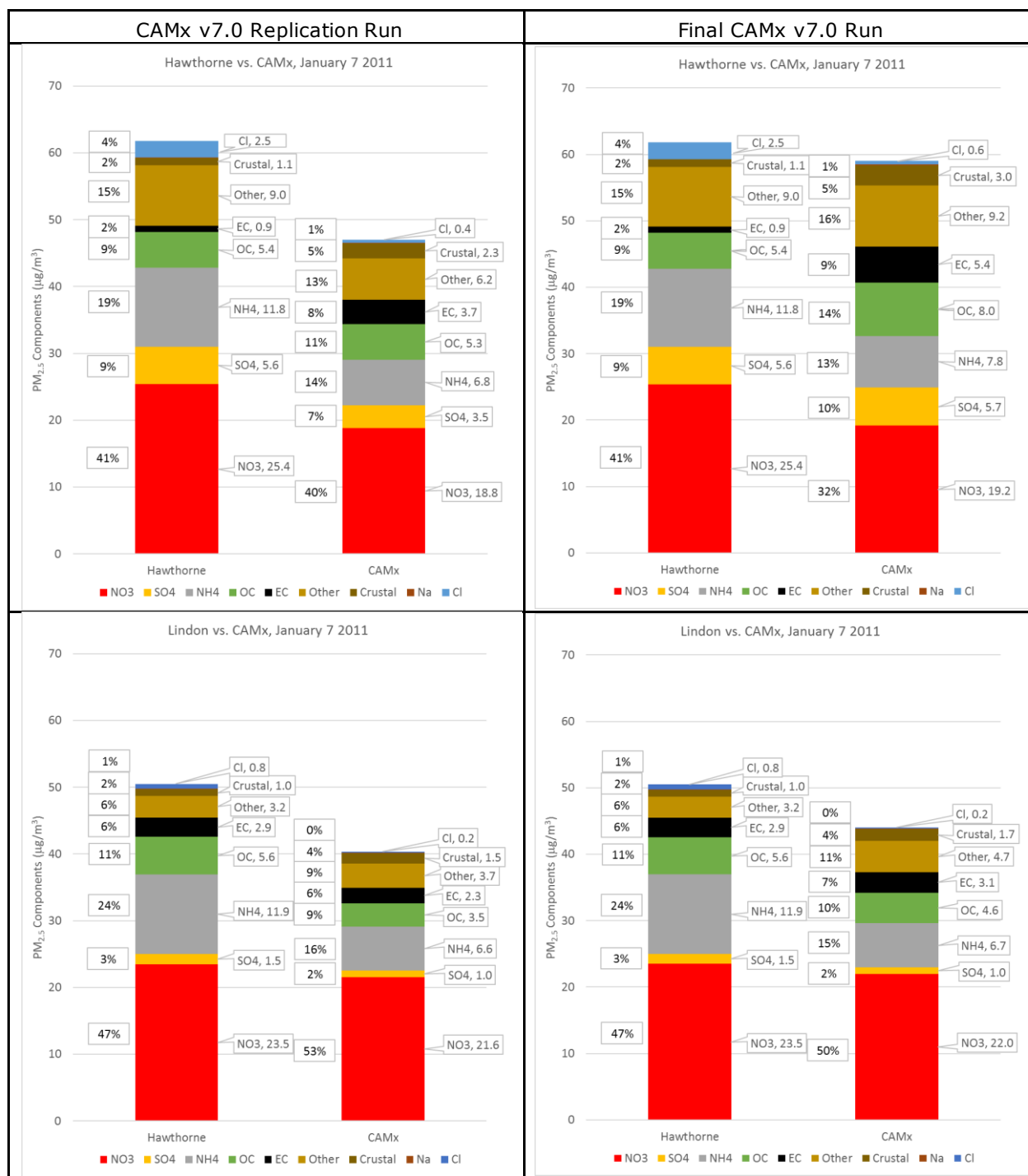
**Table 5-2. Modeled emission inventory (TPD) on January 7, 2011.**

Sector	County	CO	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub> + Injection	NH <sub>3</sub> + Final Scaling
Area	Box Elder	1.0	0.6	2.5	0.2	0.01	1.9	11.5	--
	Davis	3.6	2.8	8.5	0.7	0.02	0.4	2.1	--
	Salt Lake	12.1	10.0	29.1	3.4	0.09	1.2	2.9	--
	Tooele	1.0	0.7	2.0	0.2	0.01	0.7	5.7	--
	Utah	7.5	4.4	12.5	1.5	0.05	3.4	7.3	--
	Weber	3.3	2.3	6.3	0.6	0.02	0.7	2.8	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>52</b>	--
On-road	Box Elder	41.0	9.3	0.2	0.4	0.03	0.1	--	0.2
	Davis	95.9	18.2	0.5	1.0	0.09	0.4	--	0.9
	Salt Lake	347.2	59.9	1.6	3.5	0.34	1.3	--	3.4
	Tooele	32.7	8.2	0.2	0.4	0.02	0.1	--	0.2
	Utah	149.8	35.2	0.7	2.0	0.15	0.5	--	1.3
	Weber	65.7	11.2	0.3	0.6	0.07	0.2	--	0.7
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>3</b>	--	<b>7</b>
Nonroad	Box Elder	2.8	1.4	0.2	0.05	0.01	0.001	--	--
	Davis	10.9	2.6	1.0	0.19	0.02	0.002	--	--
	Salt Lake	59.8	9.5	5.1	0.56	0.31	0.007	--	--
	Tooele	1.4	1.4	0.2	0.05	0.01	0.001	--	--
	Utah	18.9	3.1	1.8	0.23	0.02	0.003	--	--
	Weber	15.5	2.2	2.9	0.17	0.02	0.002	--	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.02</b>	--	--
Point	Box Elder	2.6	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.01	--	--
	Davis	6.3	3.4	4.3	0.5	1.1	0.39	--	--
	Salt Lake	5.3	12.4	2.5	1.7	4.3	0.17	--	--
	Tooele	1.2	2.7	1.6	2.5	0.1	0.08	--	--
	Utah	0.6	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.24	--	--
	Weber	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.02	--	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	--	--
<b>1.33 km Grid Grand Total</b>		<b>1,018</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>21</b>

We ran CAMx v7.0 with the final configuration and reevaluated performance in replicating measured PM and gas concentrations during the January 1-11, 2011 modeling episode. We then applied the same emission modifications to UDAQ's projected inventories for the years 2017 and 2019 and re-ran CAMx for those projected emission scenarios. Results from those runs were used to project PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations to the 2019 attainment year to assess differences from UDAQ's projection. Details of the model performance evaluation and projections are presented below.

### 5.1 Model Performance Evaluation

Figure 5-1 compares modeled 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> species concentrations against measurements at two sites, Hawthorne and Lindon, on January 7 when total PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations peaked during the episode. The figure shows results from the v7.0 replication run (repeated from Section 3.2 to facilitate comparison) and the final v7.0 run described above. Although the final run continued to under predict total PM<sub>2.5</sub> at these two sites, agreement for total PM<sub>2.5</sub> and most individual species improved markedly relative to the v7.0 replication run. In this case, the sum of elemental carbon (EC), OC and Other, which we can assume is nearly all associated with carbonaceous aerosol, tended to be over predicted at Hawthorne (22.6 µg/m<sup>3</sup> modeled vs. 15.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup> observed at Hawthorne) while well-predicted at Lindon (12.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup> modeled vs. 11.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup> observed at Lindon). We attribute this change from the v7.0 replication run to the reduction in vertical mixing. This suggests that primary



**Figure 5-1. Comparison of modeled PM<sub>2.5</sub> species concentrations against measurements at Hawthorne (top) and Lindon (bottom) monitoring sites on January 7, 2011. Results from the v7.0 replication run are repeated at the left, results from the final v7.0 run are shown at the right. Boxed values to the right of each stacked bar indicate the absolute concentration (µg/m³) and boxed values to the left indicate percent contribution to total PM<sub>2.5</sub>.**

carbon emissions from sources such as smoke may be over estimated in the SLC area and that the split among primary OC and EC emissions may need adjustment at the source-category level.

Table 5-3 lists statistical performance for individual 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> species averaged over all three speciated monitoring sites and all 10 monitored site-days when measurements were available; compare to results from the v7.0 replication run in Table 3-2. Agreement improved for total PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass over all site-days, which resulted from improvements in organic and secondary inorganic compounds and relatively large increases (and related over predictions) in EC and crustal material. Again, certain species exhibited very large NMB and NME values, suggesting poor replication of measurements. However, the highest errors were associated with species that have small to negligible contributions to the PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass budget. When NMB is weighted by the measured relative contributions from each species in Table 5-4, the large errors in minor components are reduced substantially, revealing their actual insignificant contribution to overall PM<sub>2.5</sub> bias.

Figure 5-2 shows time series of modeled and measured total 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> at six Federal Reference Method (FRM) monitoring sites in the Salt Lake and Utah Lake Basins. Table 5-5 presents PM<sub>2.5</sub> NMB and NME over the entire episode at each site and for the average over all sites for CAMx v7.0 replication and final runs. The model continued to capture the inter-daily variations. Total PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at Hawthorne and Lindon improved over the CAMx v7.0 replication run but were similar to the replication run at other FRM sites.

Figure 5-3 shows time series of modeled and measured hourly gas concentrations at the Hawthorne monitoring site. Table 5-6 presents hourly gas NMB at the same site over the entire episode for both CAMx v7.0 final and replication runs. Results for all gases show consistent time variation with the v7.0 replication run, but with higher predicted concentrations for all but ozone, which is opposite. This is particularly evident in the CO and NH<sub>3</sub> time series, where the CO response was entirely caused by reduced vertical mixing whereas the NH<sub>3</sub> response was caused by a combination of reduced mixing and increased emissions. All gas species except for CO show improved episode-average statistical performance for bias relative to the v7.0 replication run. However, the time variations among all gases remained out of synch with measurements, which continued to indicate poor characterization of dispersion at hourly time scales. This may also be a cause for over predictions in primary carbon PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions at Hawthorne during the middle of the episode.

**Table 5-3. Statistical performance for speciated and total 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations over all measured site-days of January 1-10, 2011 for the final CAMx v7.0 run. Statistical performance criteria from Emery et al. (2016) are also shown for context. Statistics within the criteria are displayed as green, those outside are displayed as red.**

Species	NMB	NME	Criteria NMB	Criteria NME
NO <sub>3</sub>	-35%	36%	<±65%	<115%
SO <sub>4</sub>	2%	28%	<±30%	<50%
NH <sub>4</sub>	-44%	47%	<±30%	<50%
OC	16%	44%	<±50%	<65%
EC	115%	119%	<±40%	<75%
Other	-30%	39%	N/A	N/A
Crustal	115%	125%	N/A	N/A
Na	151%	151%	N/A	N/A
Cl	-79%	79%	N/A	N/A
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	-22%	28%	<±30%	<50%

**Table 5-4. Mass-fraction weighted contribution of species NMB from Table 5-3 to total PM<sub>2.5</sub> NMB. Average mass fractions are determined from all measured site-days.**

Species	% PM <sub>2.5</sub> Mass	Weighted NMB
NO <sub>3</sub>	43%	-15%
SO <sub>4</sub>	5%	0%
NH <sub>4</sub>	18%	-8%
OC	10%	2%
EC	3%	4%
Other	17%	-5%
Crustal	2%	2%
Na	0%	0%
Cl	3%	-2%
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	100%	-22%

**Table 5-5. Statistical performance for total 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at FRM sites in the Salt Lake and Utah Lake Basins over January 1-10, 2011 for the initial CAMx v7.0 replication run and the final v7.0 run. Improvements are noted in green, declines are noted in red.**

FRM Site	NMB		NME	
	V7.0 Replication	V7.0 Final	V7.0 Replication	V7.0 Final
Hawthorne	-31%	-16%	31%	25%
Lindon	-33%	-25%	33%	25%
Bountiful	-35%	-28%	35%	37%
Brigham City	-67%	-69%	67%	69%
Ogden	-42%	-39%	42%	40%
Tooele	-27%	-31%	27%	31%
All Sites	-37%	-30%	37%	34%

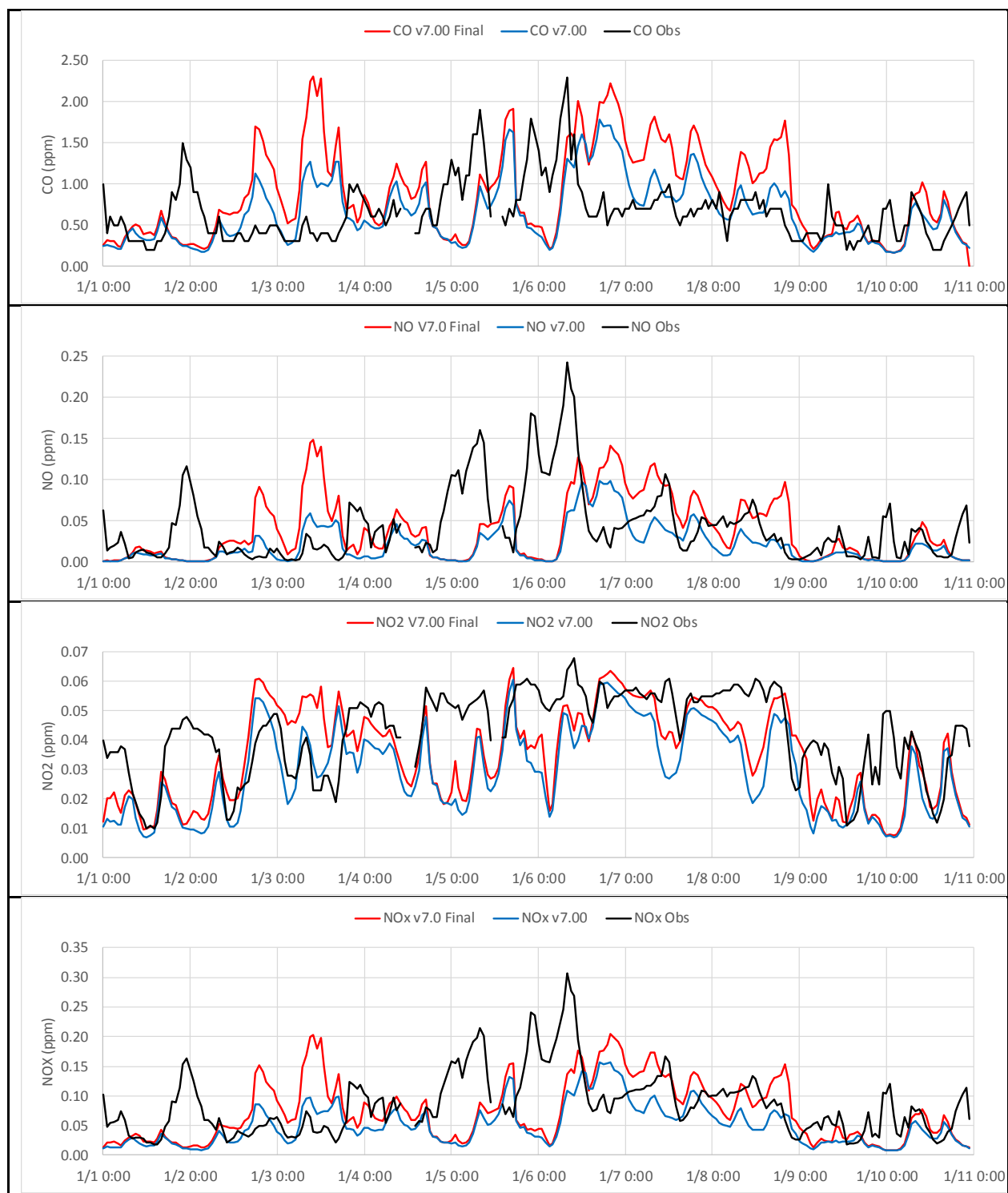
**Table 5-6. Statistical performance for hourly gas concentrations at the Hawthorne monitoring site over January 1-10, 2011 for the initial CAMx v7.0 replication run and the final v7.0 run. Improvements are noted in green, declines are noted in red.**

Gas Species	V7.0 Replication NMB	V7.0 Final NMB
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1%	35%
Nitric Oxide (NO)	-50%	-9%
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	-30%	-16%
Nitrogen Oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> )	-40%	-12%
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	125%	86%
Odd Oxygen (O <sub>x</sub> )	5%	1%

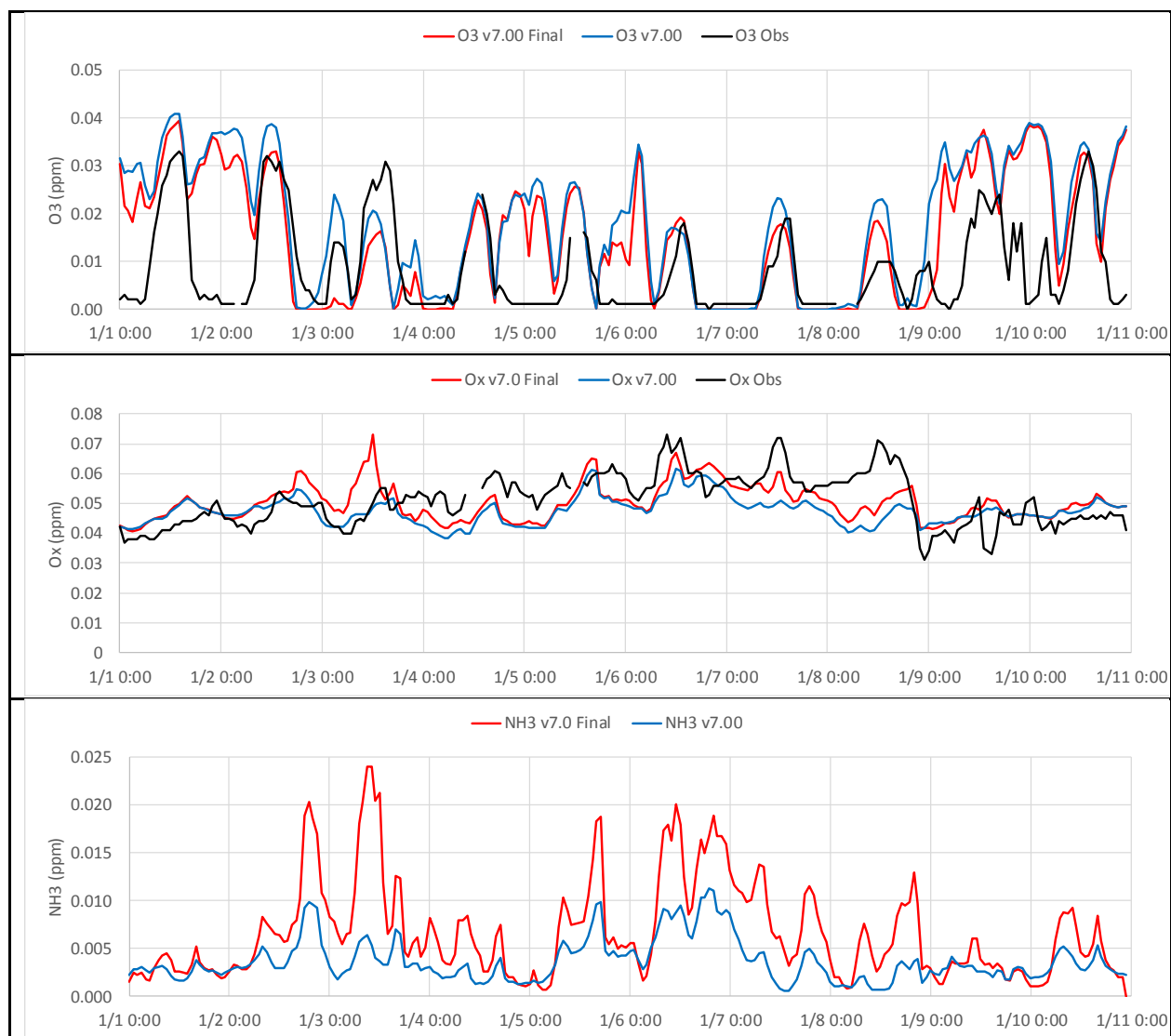




**Figure 5-2. Time series of CAMx v7.0 replication run (blue), CAMx v7.0 final run (orange), and measured (black) total PM<sub>2.5</sub> at six FRM sites in the Salt Lake and Utah Lake Basins. The 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard is shown as the horizontal red line.**

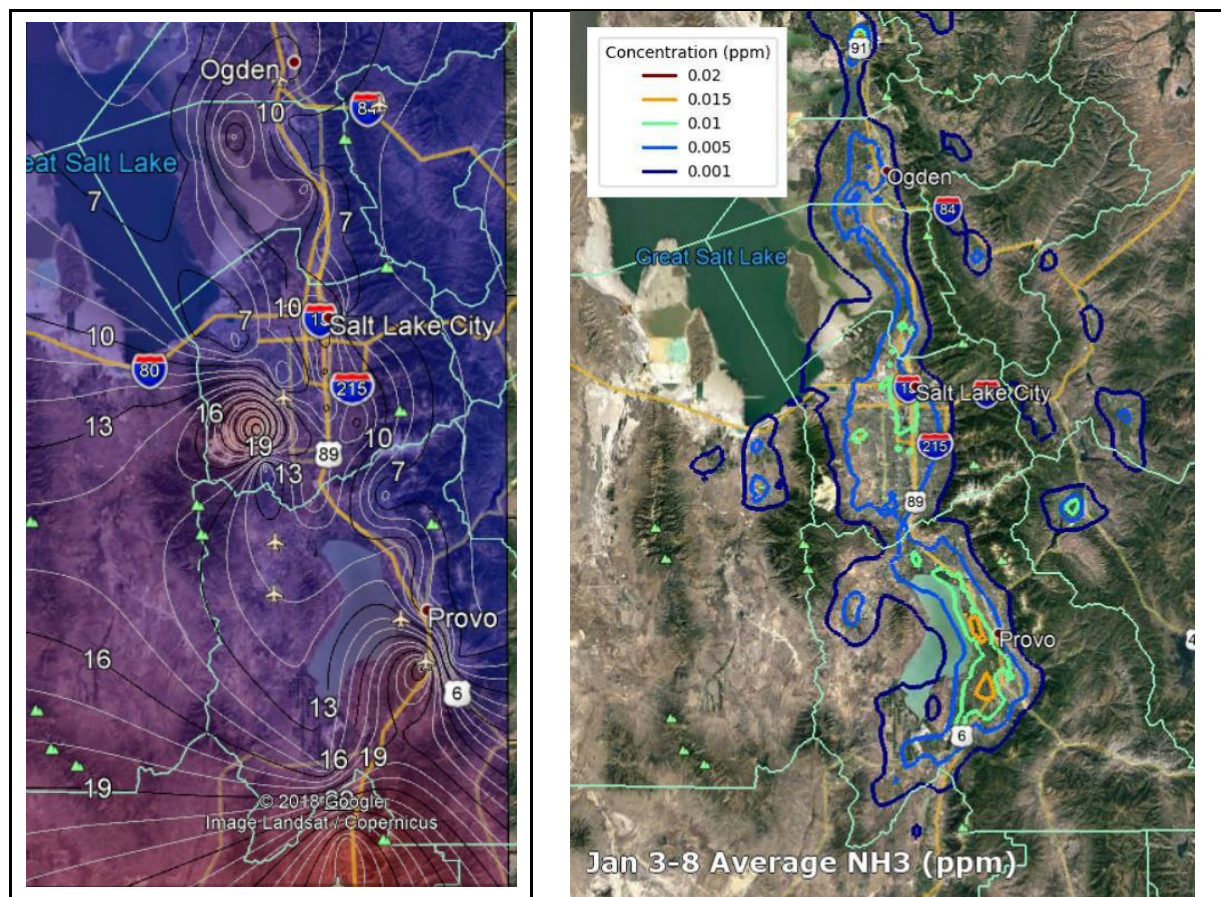


**Figure 5-3. Time series of CAMx v7.0 replication run (blue), CAMx v7.0 final run (red), and measured (black) hourly gases at the Hawthorne monitoring site. Measurements of NH<sub>3</sub> are unavailable and modeled results are shown for context.**



**Figure 5-3 (concluded).**

Simulated NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations ranged from a few ppb to well over 25 ppb on certain days of the episode (compared to a peak of 10 ppb in the v7.0 replication run), in much better qualitative agreement with measurements from the February 2019 WaFACO study. Figure 5-4 compares NH<sub>3</sub> concentration patterns averaged over February 2019 to modeled NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations averaged over January 3-8, 2011 from the final CAMx run. The model reproduced spatial patterns rather well throughout the Wasatch Front modeling domain and the concentration magnitudes approached measurements. In the Salt Lake Valley, maximum concentrations aligned with population density along the I-15 corridor and in central SLC, showing the dominance of on-road and commercial/industrial sources. The measured peak NH<sub>3</sub> in southwest Salt Lake County extending above 18 ppb is related to a landfill facility, which is not included in the model's emission inventory. Measured NH<sub>3</sub> patterns in Davis, Weber and Utah Counties indicate the dominance of agricultural emissions, where the model continued to under predict. This lack of NH<sub>3</sub> could explain much of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> under predictions at Ogden and Brigham City.



**Figure 5-4. Left side shows the spatial distribution of measured NH<sub>3</sub> (ppb) averaged over the February 2019 WaFACO field study. Right side shows the spatial distribution of CAMx simulated NH<sub>3</sub> (ppm = ppb/1000) averaged over January 3-8, 2011 for the final CAMx run.**

## 5.2 Design Value Projection

UDAQ provided 2017 and 2019 emission inventory files to Ramboll. We applied the same NH<sub>3</sub> emission modifications as described above to UDAQ's inventories and generated model-ready inputs to CAMx by running the inventory files through the SMOKE processing system in a manner consistent with UDAQ's configuration, speciation, and spatial/temporal definitions.

Diesel NH<sub>3</sub> was expected to contribute a larger fraction of total on-road emissions in years after the 2011 base case as SCR equipment required since 2007 (light-duty) and 2010 (heavy-duty) penetrated the diesel fleet. As shown in Table 5-7, UDAQ's MOVES run for 2019 does reflect increased NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from diesel vehicles and reduced NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from gasoline vehicles relative to 2011. We elected to apply the same 2011 gasoline vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions scale-up by vehicle and roadway type to the 2017 and 2019 inventories as well. In fact, gasoline NH<sub>3</sub> emission factors reviewed in Appendix A were based on field data from more recent years, so our derived scaling factors are more applicable to the 2017 and 2019 years than 2011.

Recall that we did not adjust diesel NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in the 2011 inventory because that year was relatively recent to the federal diesel SCR requirements (so little time to penetrate into the fleet). We elected not to introduce scaling of diesel NH<sub>3</sub> emissions for the 2017 and 2019 years because there is evidence to suggest that MOVES correctly estimates NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from diesels with SCR. Most US

**Table 5-7. Modeled NH<sub>3</sub> emission inventory (TPD) on January 7, 2011 for the five most populated Wasatch Front counties. Emissions are shown for the 2011 and 2019 years, split by diesel and gasoline vehicles to show separate future projections.**

County	Diesel		Gasoline		2011 to 2019	
	2019	2011	2019	2011	Diesel Change	Gasoline Change
Box Elder	0.02	0.02	0.08	0.10	20%	-23%
Davis	0.03	0.02	0.22	0.35	26%	-38%
Salt Lake	0.09	0.06	0.80	1.27	48%	-37%
Utah	0.08	0.05	0.39	0.49	66%	-22%
Weber	0.02	0.01	0.15	0.24	76%	-37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>2.45</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>-33%</b>

manufactures adhere to a European ammonia emission standard (<10 ppm) and based on rough estimates of exhaust flow, 10 ppm is in-line with MOVES estimates. Furthermore, diesels equipped with SCR either adjust the dosing or include NH<sub>3</sub> cleanup catalysts to limit ammonia slip.

Table 5-8 lists the projected 2017 episodic modeled emission inventory on the single day of January 7, 2011 similarly to the 2011 inventory listed in Table 5-2. Table 5-9 shows the percent changes from the 2011 values. Tables 5-10 and 5-11 list the 2019 inventory and percent changes from 2011, respectively.

**Table 5-8. Projected 2017 modeled emission inventory (TPD) on January 7, 2011.**

Sector	County	CO	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub> + Injection	NH <sub>3</sub> + Final Scaling
Area	Box Elder	1.1	0.5	1.9	0.2	0.01	1.8	11.4	--
	Davis	3.8	2.2	8.4	0.8	0.02	0.5	2.1	--
	Salt Lake	12.6	8.5	27.3	3.1	0.13	1.3	3.0	--
	Tooele	1.2	0.7	1.3	0.2	0.01	0.7	5.7	--
	Utah	9.6	5.2	13.4	1.9	0.06	3.3	7.2	--
	Weber	3.5	1.8	6.0	0.6	0.02	0.7	2.8	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>51</b>	--
On-road	Box Elder	16.4	3.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.06	--	0.1
	Davis	66.2	9.3	0.3	0.5	0.06	0.27	--	0.6
	Salt Lake	224.4	27.5	1.0	1.5	0.22	0.92	--	2.3
	Tooele	18.9	4.2	0.1	0.2	0.01	0.06	--	0.1
	Utah	113.5	18.1	0.5	1.0	0.11	0.51	--	1.1
	Weber	53.0	7.6	0.3	0.4	0.05	0.19	--	0.5
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	--	<b>5</b>
Nonroad	Box Elder	2.6	1.1	0.2	0.04	0.00	0.001	--	--
	Davis	12.8	2.6	1.0	0.15	0.01	0.004	--	--
	Salt Lake	75.8	11.5	5.6	0.61	0.33	0.012	--	--
	Tooele	2.2	1.2	0.1	0.04	0.00	0.001	--	--
	Utah	20.6	3.5	1.7	0.22	0.01	0.005	--	--
	Weber	14.8	2.5	2.1	0.15	0.01	0.003	--	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.03</b>	--	--
Point	Box Elder	2.2	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.01	--	--
	Davis	2.9	2.1	4.1	0.2	0.3	0.08	--	--
	Salt Lake	5.5	13.9	2.4	3.1	3.2	0.24	--	--
	Tooele	0.9	2.9	1.8	1.7	0.0	0.01	--	--
	Utah	5.3	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.62	--	--
	Weber	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.00	--	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	--	--
<b>1.33 km Grid Grand Total</b>		<b>754</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>18</b>

**Table 5-9. Relative change (percent) from 2011 to projected 2017 modeled emission inventory on January 7, 2011.**

Sector	County	CO	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub> + Injection	NH <sub>3</sub> + Final Scaling
Area	Box Elder	14%	-11%	-23%	11%	33%	-5%	-1%	--
	Davis	6%	-21%	-1%	18%	-11%	6%	1%	--
	Salt Lake	5%	-15%	-6%	-9%	48%	8%	3%	--
	Tooele	21%	3%	-31%	5%	1%	0%	0%	--
	Utah	27%	19%	7%	23%	21%	-2%	-1%	--
	Weber	7%	-21%	-5%	1%	-11%	-2%	-1%	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>--</b>
On-road	Box Elder	-60%	-59%	-67%	-70%	-48%	-35%	--	-35%
	Davis	-31%	-49%	-36%	-51%	-32%	-26%	--	-32%
	Salt Lake	-35%	-54%	-40%	-56%	-36%	-30%	--	-33%
	Tooele	-42%	-49%	-46%	-56%	-39%	-28%	--	-29%
	Utah	-24%	-49%	-30%	-51%	-26%	-6%	--	-13%
	Weber	-19%	-32%	-19%	-39%	-31%	-24%	--	-30%
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>-48%</b>	<b>-38%</b>	<b>-52%</b>	<b>-33%</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>-28%</b>
Nonroad	Box Elder	-5%	-15%	-18%	-18%	-84%	38%	--	--
	Davis	18%	0%	2%	-22%	-46%	59%	--	--
	Salt Lake	27%	22%	11%	9%	7%	71%	--	--
	Tooele	50%	-14%	-24%	-16%	-75%	22%	--	--
	Utah	9%	14%	-4%	-2%	-52%	63%	--	--
	Weber	-4%	13%	-27%	-9%	-57%	33%	--	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
Point	Box Elder	-14%	-23%	-38%	-41%	62%	18%	--	--
	Davis	-54%	-39%	-5%	-58%	-69%	-79%	--	--
	Salt Lake	3%	12%	-4%	77%	-25%	40%	--	--
	Tooele	-24%	8%	17%	-31%	-72%	-38%	--	--
	Utah	795%	17%	-61%	39%	-16%	157%	--	--
	Weber	54%	-40%	114%	83%	-90%	-22%	--	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>-30%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>1.33 km Grid Grand Total</b>		<b>-26%</b>	<b>-33%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>-28%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-14%</b>

**Table 5-10. Projected 2019 modeled emission inventory (TPD) on January 7, 2011.**

Sector	County	CO	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub> + Injection	NH <sub>3</sub> + Final Scaling
Area	Box Elder	1.1	0.5	1.8	0.2	0.01	1.7	11.4	--
	Davis	3.7	1.9	8.1	0.8	0.02	0.5	2.1	--
	Salt Lake	12.6	7.4	26.2	3.1	0.13	1.3	3.0	--
	Tooele	1.2	0.7	1.4	0.2	0.01	0.7	5.7	--
	Utah	9.5	4.9	13.3	1.9	0.43	3.3	7.2	--
	Weber	3.5	1.6	5.7	0.6	0.02	0.7	2.8	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>--</b>
On-road	Box Elder	19.0	4.6	0.09	0.2	0.02	0.08	--	0.2
	Davis	57.9	8.0	0.25	0.4	0.08	0.24	--	0.5
	Salt Lake	207.9	28.5	0.89	1.5	0.31	0.90	--	2.2
	Tooele	19.7	4.7	0.09	0.2	0.02	0.07	--	0.2
	Utah	90.9	19.3	0.39	1.0	0.16	0.47	--	1.1
	Weber	46.8	6.3	0.21	0.3	0.06	0.17	--	0.4
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>5</b>
Nonroad	Box Elder	2.5	1.1	0.2	0.04	0.00	0.001	--	--
	Davis	12.2	2.4	0.9	0.16	0.01	0.004	--	--
	Salt Lake	72.1	8.9	5.4	0.53	0.28	0.012	--	--
	Tooele	2.5	1.2	0.2	0.04	0.01	0.001	--	--
	Utah	25.1	2.8	1.9	0.22	0.02	0.005	--	--
	Weber	13.7	1.9	1.8	0.13	0.01	0.003	--	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
Point	Box Elder	2.4	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.01	--	--
	Davis	4.2	2.4	3.1	0.2	0.6	0.09	--	--
	Salt Lake	7.5	20.1	2.3	3.2	3.0	0.38	--	--
	Tooele	0.9	3.2	2.1	2.5	0.0	0.01	--	--
	Utah	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.33	--	--
	Weber	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.01	--	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>1.33 km Grid Grand Total</b>		<b>697</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>21</b>



**Table 5-11. Relative change (percent) from 2011 to projected 2019 modeled emission inventory on January 7, 2011.**

Sector	County	CO	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub> + Injection	NH <sub>3</sub> + Final Scaling
Area	Box Elder	13%	-19%	-27%	11%	30%	-7%	-1%	--
	Davis	4%	-32%	-5%	20%	-17%	7%	1%	--
	Salt Lake	4%	-26%	-10%	-8%	46%	10%	4%	--
	Tooele	20%	-6%	-29%	8%	1%	-1%	0%	--
	Utah	27%	13%	6%	26%	850%	-3%	-1%	--
	Weber	6%	-32%	-9%	2%	-15%	-3%	-1%	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>120%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>--</b>
On-road	Box Elder	-54%	-50%	-60%	-64%	-8%	-17%	--	-17%
	Davis	-40%	-56%	-45%	-59%	-13%	-35%	--	-39%
	Salt Lake	-40%	-52%	-46%	-57%	-9%	-32%	--	-35%
	Tooele	-40%	-43%	-47%	-51%	1%	-17%	--	-18%
	Utah	-39%	-45%	-47%	-48%	9%	-14%	--	-19%
	Weber	-29%	-44%	-33%	-49%	-12%	-31%	--	-38%
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>-40%</b>	<b>-47%</b>	<b>-46%</b>	<b>-53%</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>-31%</b>
Nonroad	Box Elder	-8%	-20%	-20%	-25%	-87%	38%	--	--
	Davis	12%	-10%	-3%	-18%	-38%	73%	--	--
	Salt Lake	21%	-6%	5%	-5%	-8%	66%	--	--
	Tooele	71%	-13%	-1%	-18%	-18%	33%	--	--
	Utah	33%	-8%	7%	-5%	-15%	73%	--	--
	Weber	-11%	-12%	-38%	-23%	-52%	29%	--	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
Point	Box Elder	-7%	19%	48%	9%	97%	-13%	--	--
	Davis	-33%	-28%	-28%	-52%	-44%	-77%	--	--
	Salt Lake	40%	62%	-9%	84%	-30%	122%	--	--
	Tooele	-20%	15%	35%	1%	-57%	-17%	--	--
	Utah	-25%	-38%	-68%	-42%	-24%	38%	--	--
	Weber	84%	17%	422%	111%	14%	217%	--	--
	<b>1.33 km Grid</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>1.33 km Grid Grand Total</b>		<b>-32%</b>	<b>-32%</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-22%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>

We then re-ran CAMx with the 2017 and 2019 emission scenarios. We passed CAMx output fields to the EPA Speciated Model Attainment Test (SMAT) program to project PM<sub>2.5</sub> 2018 design values (DV) to 2019 (i.e., 2016-2018 DV period to 2017-2019 DV period). We also obtained UDAQ's CAMx output for 2017 and ran their unadjusted 2019 emission inventory with their NH<sub>3</sub> injection in the original UDAQ CAMx configuration (UDAQ had not run CAMx for their 2019 scenario). We passed UDAQ's output fields to SMAT to compare their 2019 projected DVs with our results. Table 5-12 presents results from UDAQ and Ramboll's SMAT projections for the 7 FRM PM<sub>2.5</sub> sites along the Wasatch Front that were active in 2016-2018. Note that a projected DV of  $\geq 35.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  exceeds the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard due to definition of the 35 NAAQS and associated rounding conventions. See also Appendix B for details of the SMAT calculations. Results among UDAQ and Ramboll SMAT projected DVs are very similar for this brief 2-year span with no sites projected to exceed the standard; as detailed in Appendix B, positive and negative projection factors occur among all PM<sub>2.5</sub> species and these differ among the UDAQ and Ramboll modeling results. Ramboll results indicate mostly small increases in inorganic secondary salts (NH<sub>4</sub>, nitrate and sulfate) and small reductions in primary carbon species. UDAQ results indicate mostly small mixed changes among all species.

**Table 5-12. 2016-2018 base year DV (DVb) and 2019 projected future DV (DVf) estimated using SMAT. The UDAQ projections used the original UDAQ CAMx configuration with 2017 and 2019 emissions as listed above and described in the Maintenance Plan (UDAQ, 2020a); Ramboll projections used the modified CAMx configuration with UDAQ's 2017 and 2019 emissions, without the UDAQ NH<sub>3</sub> injection, but with the on-road motor vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> scaling developed in this study.**

<b>AIRS ID</b>	<b>Site Name, County</b>	<b>2016-2018 DVb</b>	<b>UDAQ 2019 DVf</b>	<b>Ramboll 2019 DVf</b>
490030003	Brigham City, Box Elder	32.4	33.5	33.4
490110004	Bountiful, Davis	28.5	28.3	28.6
490353006	Hawthorne, Salt Lake	33.4	34.0	33.2
490353010	Rose Park, Salt Lake	34.9	35.4	35.0
490494001	Lindon, Utah	31.1	29.8	30.6
490495010	Spanish Fork, Utah	28.4	28.9	28.5
490570002	Ogden, Weber	30.2	30.7	30.2



## 6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Ramboll investigated causes for an apparent NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall in the photochemical modeling application employed by UDAQ to support the recent SLC SIP and subsequent MP. This project also benefitted from the WaFACO field study conducted by USU during the winter of 2019. We reviewed NH<sub>3</sub> emission inventories and recently measured concentration patterns; investigated modeling uncertainties and deficiencies, updated the UDAQ model configuration and increased modeled NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from on-road vehicles according to peer-reviewed literature; and re-evaluated modeling results and projected attainment-year PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality.

Based on comparisons to routine field measurements during the January 1-10, 2011 modeling episode, the UDAQ simulation replicated the relative contributions of most PM<sub>2.5</sub> species rather well but under predicted total PM<sub>2.5</sub> at all sites throughout the episode because of a lack of particulate ammonium nitrate, despite the additional NH<sub>3</sub> emissions. The simulated meteorology generally captured the build-up and cessation of the stagnant inversion pattern over the episode. However, comparison of observed and predicted concentrations of emitted gases (CO and NO<sub>x</sub>), which depend on different emission inventory sectors than ammonia, indicated that simulated meteorology did not sufficiently characterize inversion depth/strength, dispersion patterns or the degree of stagnation in time and space. We found that on average NO<sub>x</sub> was under predicted by about 20% during the episode while ozone was consistently over predicted (i.e., perhaps too little ozone uptake into NO<sub>x</sub> and its oxidation products rather than too much ozone formation). During mid-episode when PM<sub>2.5</sub> peaked, odd oxygen (O<sub>x</sub> = NO<sub>2</sub> + O<sub>3</sub>; a measure of photochemical processing among NO<sub>x</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>) was under predicted, establishing a link relating low rates of NO<sub>x</sub> oxidation and the lack of nitrate production. Additionally, we found that even with UDAQ's additional NH<sub>3</sub>, simulated NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations over the basin remained roughly a third of the average 11-12 ppb measured in SLC during the February 2019 WaFACO study.

### **The modeling system was rather sensitive to vertical diffusion rates:**

On the basis of CAMx sensitivity testing, we found that simulated PM<sub>2.5</sub> and most gas concentrations benefitted greatly from reduced vertical mixing, which also reduced the apparent NH<sub>3</sub> shortfall, and likewise benefitted somewhat from increased snow albedo, which enhances photochemical production of secondary species including nitrate.

### **The modeling system was insensitive to chemical modifications and bi-directional ammonia exchange with the snow-covered surface:**

The model was insensitive to the introduction of bi-directional NH<sub>3</sub> surface exchange because the presence of snow cover squelches NH<sub>3</sub> re-emission from soil/vegetation. Additionally, snow enhances NH<sub>3</sub> deposition rates when snow partially melts during the daytime. The model was also insensitive to chemical modifications such as invoking alternative inorganic aerosol chemistry, removal of clouds (maximized solar radiation), increased chloride levels (increased oxidant production), and a scale-up of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to alleviate the episode-average NO<sub>x</sub> under prediction bias.

### **Simulated PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in urban SLC responded greatly to increased NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from on-road gasoline vehicles:**

Simulated NH<sub>3</sub> and ammonium nitrate concentrations responded most favorably when we replaced the UDAQ NH<sub>3</sub> injection with a scale-up of on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions by a factor of ~2, a modification that is supported by the scientific literature. While the UDAQ NH<sub>3</sub> injection added ~65% to the

original total Salt Lake County episodic emission inventory, the on-road NH<sub>3</sub> scale-up added ~40%. Although we found major uncertainties in other NH<sub>3</sub> emission sectors, specifically animal husbandry and landfill/composting facilities, we did not alter those NH<sub>3</sub> emissions because of a lack of information needed to address fundamental issues with emission factors (emission rates per activity unit), a lack in estimated activity (animal head counts, composting volumes) and the manner in which these sources are spatially allocated to the modeling grid (to general widespread landuse categories rather than to specific locations/facilities). In the more rural counties of Box Elder, Weber, Tooele, and Utah under estimates of agricultural NH<sub>3</sub> are likely to be the primary cause for PM<sub>2.5</sub> under predictions.

**Combining several key improvements, the final model resulted in improved agreement between measured and simulated PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in SLC and Utah County:**

We conducted a final CAMx base-year simulation for the episode, applying reduced vertical diffusion rates, increased urban snow albedo, and scaled-up on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in lieu of the UDAQ NH<sub>3</sub> injection. While the model continued to under predict total PM<sub>2.5</sub>, particularly at rural monitoring sites, agreement with speciated PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurements improved markedly at the urban monitoring sites relative to our initial CAMx replication run. The final model configuration predicted about the right amount of particulate sulfate and approached the 2019 episode-averaged measured concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> in the SLC basin. However, the model continued to under estimate particulate nitrate by over 30%, averaged over all three speciated monitoring sites and monitored days, which is consistent with and generally better than other PM<sub>2.5</sub> modeling applications in the western US. This case also revealed that carbon emissions from sources such as smoke may be over estimated in the SLC area and that the split among primary organic and elemental carbon emissions may need adjustment at the source-category level.

**Projected PM<sub>2.5</sub> Design Values using the updated model were similar to UDAQ's projections:**

Finally, we conducted simulations using UDAQ's 2017 and 2019 projected emission inventories, applying the on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> scale-up at the same proportion as 2011, and holding the model configuration and all other model inputs the same as the final base-year simulation described above. Results among UDAQ and Ramboll projected PM<sub>2.5</sub> DVs from 2016-2018 monitored DVs were very similar with no sites projected to exceed the standard. We confirmed that both our and UDAQ's projected cases do result in some small concentration increases for inorganic secondary salts (NH<sub>4</sub>, nitrate and sulfate), indicating disbenefit conditions.

**The model indicates the SLC basin exists in a NO<sub>x</sub>-disbenefit condition during PCAP events, in agreement with recent field studies:**

Both modeled and measured ozone and NO<sub>x</sub> indicate that the gas-phase chemical environment that generates secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> compounds during exceedance events is NO<sub>x</sub>-saturated and oxidant-lean. This is a separate issue from whether PM<sub>2.5</sub> formation is ammonia- vs. nitrate-limited. In a NO<sub>x</sub>-saturated environment, NO<sub>x</sub> emission reductions can raise oxidant levels, raise secondary PM formation rates, and cause PM<sub>2.5</sub> increases or smaller-than-expected decreases ("NO<sub>x</sub> dis-benefit"). Recent field studies and previous UDAQ analyses indicate the SLC atmosphere is typically in this regime during PCAP events and the behavior of the model is consistent with this. This has major implications for accurately projecting future PM<sub>2.5</sub> based on anticipated emission inventory changes.

**The model indicates the SLC basin is near balance between ammonia-limited and nitrate-limited conditions, in agreement with recent field studies:**

Our results provide ample evidence to suggest that the inorganic PM<sub>2.5</sub> environment in Salt Lake City can vary spatially and temporally between NH<sub>3</sub>-limited and NO<sub>3</sub>-limited conditions. The model is therefore responding appropriately to emission reductions with small reductions or increases in PM<sub>2.5</sub>. However, the degree of PM<sub>2.5</sub> response is affected by model uncertainties and could change substantially if the particulate nitrate under prediction bias could be alleviated, thereby altering the balance between cations (NH<sub>3</sub>) and acids (nitrate, SO<sub>4</sub>, Cl).

**Remaining Issues:**

Remaining model performance issues are related to the ability of the meteorological model to properly represent weak flow patterns under stagnant inversion conditions, and remaining issues for certain stationary emission sectors, including activity, spatial distribution, temporal allocation, and speciation including the split of primary PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions into specific carbon and non-carbon components.

**6.1 Recommendations**

Based on results from this study, we recommend the following for future research and modeling applications:

- Continue to employ the updates developed in this project for future PM<sub>2.5</sub> modeling analyses, including reduced vertical diffusion rates, increased on-road NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from gasoline vehicles, and increased snow-covered urban albedo;
- Bring the modeling system forward to a more recent exceedance episode to characterize contemporary PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality along the Wasatch Front and to update future year projections;
- Investigate ways to improve the meteorological simulation of PCAP episode along the Wasatch Front, specifically in characterizing inversion depth and strength, three-dimensional dispersion patterns, and boundary layer cloud evolution;
- Improve NH<sub>3</sub> emission inventory and spatial allocation techniques for remaining key sources: livestock agriculture (particularly in more rural counties) and landfill/composting activities;
- Investigate causes for under estimates of NO<sub>x</sub> and chloride emissions;
- Research and implement alternative speciation profiles for wood combustion among organic and elemental carbon and non-carbon smoke components;
- Investigate how the collection of further model updates alter PM<sub>2.5</sub> response to future projected and/or alternative emissions scenarios;
- Further investigate the role of snow in modulating surface-atmosphere NH<sub>3</sub> exchange;

**6.2 Data Sharing**

The Ramboll team has shared with UDAQ all datasets and models developed or updated during the course of this project. Following the specifications in the Science for Solutions Grant, all shared data was provided to UDAQ within 8 months of project completion. The following data were delivered to UDAQ from this project:

- The updated CAMx modeling system, including all CAMx source code updates specific to this work, model scripts, input and output files (all other general CAMx updates are periodically made available to the public at Ramboll's website [www.camx.com](http://www.camx.com));

- All emissions inventory and model-ready emission files that Ramboll adjusted or altered, including scaled-up on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions as SMOKE-ready inputs, CAMx-ready inputs, and tabular spreadsheet summaries;
- All other adjusted or altered model inputs, specifically the modified vertical diffusion input files;
- A subset of key CAMx output files selected in coordination with UDAQ, both for the 2011 performance evaluation period and the 2017-2019 projection scenarios.

## 7.0 REFERENCES

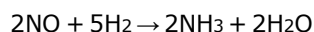
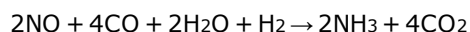
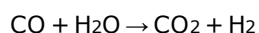
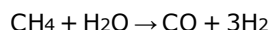
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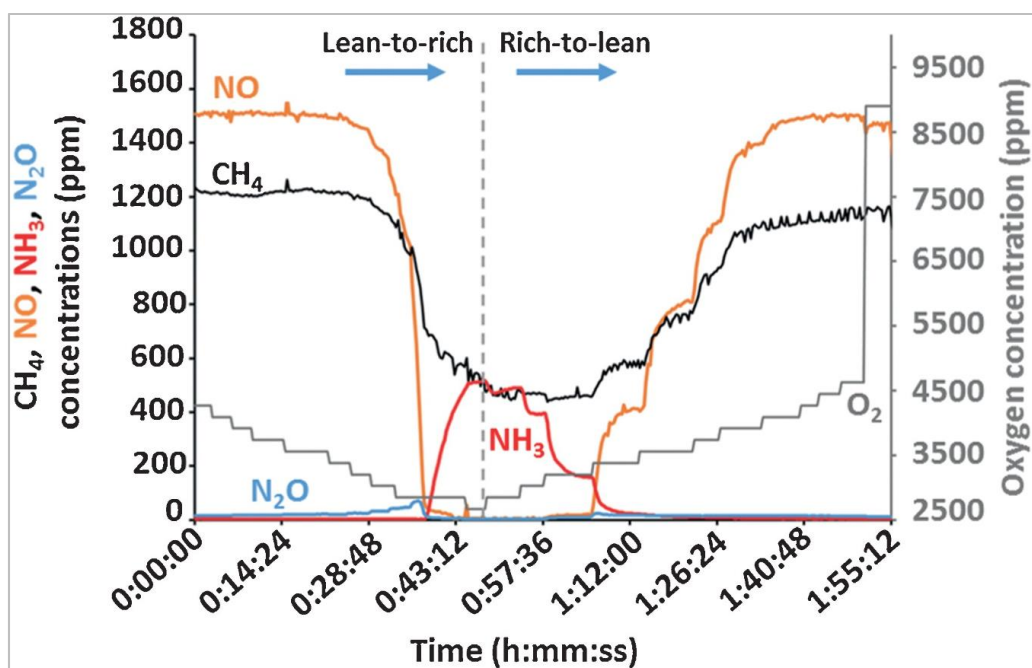
## APPENDIX A: REVIEW OF MOBILE SOURCE AMMONIA EMISSIONS MEASUREMENTS

### A.1 Introduction

Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) emissions from engines are primarily the result of aftertreatment catalysts to reduce nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions. In gasoline or natural gas spark-ignition engines, the formation of NH<sub>3</sub> occurs through the chemical reduction of nitric oxide (NO) in a three-way catalyst (TWC). In such cases, NH<sub>3</sub> and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) are intermediate products of the chemical reduction of NO, the primary form of NO<sub>x</sub> from an engine. Hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) is used as the reductant, formed through a water (H<sub>2</sub>O)-gas shift reaction from methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO). The presence of H<sub>2</sub> and CO can also form NH<sub>3</sub> as outlined the following chemical reactions:



As presented by (Nevalainen et al. 2018), Figure A-1 demonstrates that NH<sub>3</sub> is formed when the exhaust concentrations are near stoichiometric air-fuel ratios where most modern spark-ignition engines operate.



**Figure A-1. CH<sub>4</sub>, NO, NH<sub>3</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O concentrations during lean-to-rich and rich-to-lean operations and oxygen concentration at 440 °C with fresh TWC (Nevalainen et al. 2018).**

In modern compression-ignition engines (primarily diesel or diesel pilot injection) where the air-fuel mixture is lean, Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) is used to reduce NO emissions. NH<sub>3</sub> is added upstream of the SCR typically by injecting urea solution that thermally decomposes to NH<sub>3</sub>. This raises the possibility for NH<sub>3</sub> emissions if it "slips" through the catalyst without reacting. However, modern diesel engines usually include an NH<sub>3</sub> oxidation (AMOX) catalyst to minimize slip into the atmosphere, but this may not eliminate all NH<sub>3</sub> emissions. If the aftertreatment controls begin to fail,

NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are possible. Since model year 2010, heavy-duty diesel engines are required to have NO<sub>x</sub> controls that encourage the use of SCR. Likewise, the 2007 light-duty vehicle standards necessitate aftertreatment NO<sub>x</sub> control. The use of SCR for off-road diesel engines was phased in during 2014-2017 to meet the Tier 4 emissions standards.

## **A.2 Ambient Tunnel and Remote Sensing Measurements**

Ambient NH<sub>3</sub> emission measurements include remote sensing studies both in tunnels and of individual vehicles. In both cases, it is difficult to relate the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration to actual emissions rates in terms of vehicle miles traveled, so the measured and reported NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations are expressed relative to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentration (over ambient). These are converted to mass of emissions (g) per mass of fuel consumed (kg) using a carbon balance. Tunnel studies represent fleet averages incorporating the age distribution of the fleet passing through the tunnel, while remote sensing measures individual vehicles and matches the license plate to the make, model, and year through the vehicle registration.

### **A.2.1 Light-Duty Gasoline Vehicles**

Because only a small fraction of light-duty vehicles is diesel powered, field studies largely measured the fleet of gasoline light-duty vehicles. Heavy-duty vehicles are not measured during most remote sensing studies because of the location of exhaust pipes or because they were specifically excluded based on the vehicle registration.

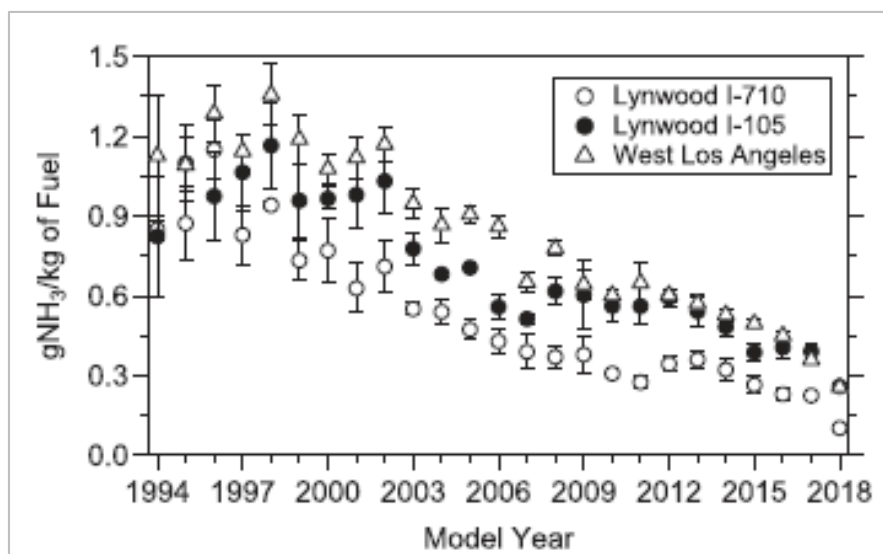
Sun et al. (2016) provided a summary of the findings from tunnel and remote sensing field study reports produced through 2016. Results ranged from 0.27 to 0.66 (ppb NH<sub>3</sub> / ppm CO<sub>2</sub>). The estimates from the US field studies (including Tulsa, Houston, Philadelphia, and cities in California) since 2013 averaged 0.37 ppb/ppm, and that result translates to an NH<sub>3</sub> emission rate of 0.45 g/kg-fuel. Another tunnel study (Kean et al., 2009) in the San Francisco Bay area also found that NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from a fleet of light-duty vehicles were 0.64±0.04 g/kg-fuel in 1999 and 0.40±0.02 mg/kg-fuel in 2006.

The average result from historic studies is within the range of recent measurements in Los Angeles by Bishop (2019), which range from 0.62 g/kg-fuel to 0.43 g/kg-fuel. In that study, results from two measurement sites differed in that the higher NH<sub>3</sub> emissions were produced at the site where traffic travels along an arterial roadway with traffic light controls forcing stop and go driving, while lower NH<sub>3</sub> emissions were produced at the site where traffic travels on a limited access road (freeway) without traffic light controls. Bishop's (2019) results were also parsed by vehicle model year (Figure A-2), where aged vehicles produced higher NH<sub>3</sub> emissions compared with newer vehicles (by about a factor of 3 for 20-24 year-old vehicles). Note that NH<sub>3</sub> is produced only when the catalyst is actively reducing NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, so even aged catalysts function effectively to reduce NO<sub>x</sub> while producing more NH<sub>3</sub>.

### **A.2.2 Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles**

Haugen et al. (2018) remotely measured NH<sub>3</sub> emissions at a weigh station in California and found 0.09 g/kg-fuel in 2017 for the 1844 heavy-duty vehicles measured, 0.02 g/kg-fuel in 2012, and 0.003 g/kg-fuel in 2009. The big difference between the three years is that 63% of the heavy-duty diesel fleet in 2017 comprised chassis model years 2011+ (with 2010 and later engines) compared to only 12% in 2012, and 0% in 2009. Therefore, NH<sub>3</sub> emissions largely occur when the SCR catalysts are used on modern vehicles. Based on this information, we would expect that modern heavy-duty diesel vehicles (if 100% of the vehicles were 2011+) would produce 0.14 g/kg-fuel.





**Figure A-2. NH<sub>3</sub> emissions by vehicle age at three remote sensing sites in Los Angeles, California. Uncertainties are represented by standard error of the mean calculated using daily means (Bishop, 2019).**

### A.3 Individual Vehicle Emissions Measurements

Vehicle emissions measurements come from two types, laboratory studies on prescribed driving cycles and portable emission monitoring systems (PEMS) used for normal driving on the road. Laboratory studies require that the vehicle is loaded by a dynamometer that provides resistance to the wheels of a vehicle or the fly wheel of the engine, and emissions are measured in accordance to standard certification conditions. The laboratory conditions can be controlled and replicated from test to test and vehicle to vehicle. Laboratory studies can be unrepresentative of normal operations including road roughness, route turns, ambient weather and other conditions. PEMS devices can be used whenever the vehicle is operated and can be conducted in a laboratory or on the road to compare the situations. However, PEMS devices add significant weight and can change the vehicle dynamics and may not conform to the certification measurement methods.

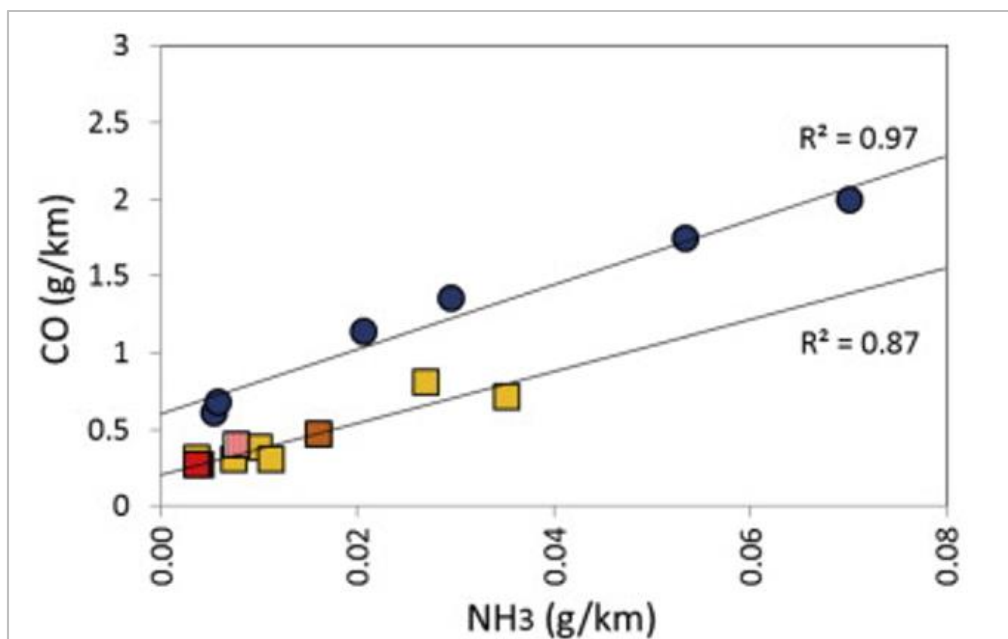
#### A.3.1 Light-Duty Gasoline Vehicles

Laboratory studies often use certification cycles or other driving cycles meant to represent in-use conditions. Many typical cycles that are used for certification include the U.S. Federal Test Procedure (FTP), the European New European Driving Cycle (NEDC), and the Worldwide Harmonized Light Vehicles Test Cycle (WLTC). In these cycles, the vehicles are required to be started and so can include cold and hot starts separately or combined. Other cycles can be driven in a laboratory, but it might not be possible to accurately represent in-use conditions of road roughness, grade, and other variables.

Suarez-Bertoa et al (2017) provides a summary of some historic studies of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from light-duty gasoline US and European vehicles, indicating 3 to 48 mg/km (5 – 77 mg/mi) on typical certification driving cycles. Suarez-Bertoa et al. (2014) report that the range of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from Euro V and Euro VI vehicles was 4 to 62 mg/km with one diesel vehicle at ~8 mg/km.

In addition, Suarez-Bertoa et al. (2014, 2017) report that cold conditions and cold starts result in higher NH<sub>3</sub> emissions for gasoline vehicles (by 28% to 47%, respectively, among the two papers). In Suarez-Bertoa et al. (2017), cold starts were responsible for up to 134 mg/km NH<sub>3</sub> of each trip

measured, where the length of the cold start period was determined by engine temperature, but no longer than 5 minutes, so the travel distance was likely less than 1 km. However, the overall average for the gasoline vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emission factor based on hot start trips averaged  $6 \pm 2$  mg/km, so the vehicles used for the cold testing conditions were normally low NH<sub>3</sub> emitters. One reason given by Suarez-Bertoa et al. (2017) for the higher NH<sub>3</sub> emissions relates to higher CO emissions, and Figure A-3 shows that cold temperatures have an effect regardless of the CO emissions.



**Figure A-3. CO vs. NH<sub>3</sub> emission factors at 22°C (yellow squares) and -7°C (blue circles). Also shown are data from other dynamometer studies performed at 22°C (red and orange squares). From Suarez et al. (2017).**

One of the US studies cited (Livingston et al., 2009) reported that the fleet-average NH<sub>3</sub> emission rate based on the Unified Cycle (UC) was 46 mg/km, with the ultra-low emissions vehicle (ULEV)-only average of 27 mg/km. The latter is much higher than the reported ULEV emission rate of 12 mg/km by Suarez-Bertoa (2017) on the Federal Test Procedure (FTP) cycle. According to Livingston et al. (2009):

*"Although no statistically significant differences were found among different vehicle types, emission standards or driving cycles, the results of this study suggested the highest ammonia emitters are likely to possess the following characteristics: medium-duty vehicles, older emissions technologies, mid-range odometer readings, and higher CO emissions. Aggressive driving cycles were also associated with higher ammonia emission rates."*

Livingston et al. (2009) found that the most aggressive cycle (US06, a certification driving schedule that has higher acceleration and more braking than the FTP) resulted in the highest NH<sub>3</sub> emissions, although the number of vehicles tested was fewer than those tested on the FTP. The UC has been described as more aggressive than the FTP, and similar numbers of vehicles were tested, providing the best evidence for increased NH<sub>3</sub> emissions during more aggressive driving.

### A.3.2 Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles

Khalek et al. (2015) studied two engines (a 2007 model without SCR and a 2010 model with SCR) run on an engine dynamometer. NH<sub>3</sub> emissions were 0.0025 g/hp-hr for the 2010 engine and undetectable for the 2007 engine. Using the CO<sub>2</sub> measurement of 571.3 g/hp-hr from the same test results and converting this result to fuel consumed of 240 g/kW-hr, the 2010 engine NH<sub>3</sub> emission rate converts to the equivalent of 0.014 g/kg-fuel. This is far lower than the 0.09 g/kg-fuel result from Haugen et al. (2018) for the fleet of heavy-duty diesel vehicles in 2017 of which only 63% used 2010 or later engines.

To provide another reference, Mendoza-Villafuerte et al. (2017) installed a PEMS on a truck with a Euro VI compliant diesel engine, an SCR, and an NH<sub>3</sub> oxidation catalyst. The test was conducted on various road types. Results shown in Table A-1 show a cold start effect, but overall the NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are closer to those of Haugen et al. (2018) versus those of Khalek et al. (2015) especially when considering cold starts. The results for different types of road driving were not significantly different.

**Table A-1. Heavy-duty diesel NH<sub>3</sub> emissions reported by Mendoza-Villafuerte et al. (2017).**

Road	NH <sub>3</sub> (g/kW-hr)	NH <sub>3</sub> (g/kg-fuel)	Start Condition
Urban	0.0245	0.102	cold
	0.0115	0.048	hot
Rural	0.0270	0.112	cold
	0.0130	0.054	hot
Motorway	0.0315	0.131	cold
	0.0080	0.033	hot

Heavy-duty NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are considerably higher for stoichiometric compressed natural gas (CNG) engines. Thiruvengadam et al. (2016) measured emissions using a trailer-mounted system equivalent to a certification grade laboratory that allows measurements to be taken during on-road driving like a PEMS device. Table A-2 shows results for stoichiometric (spark-ignition) CNG engines compared with a high-pressure direct injection (HPDI) dual-fueled diesel/natural gas compression ignition engine, and a typical modern diesel engine (the latter two with SCR systems). For the Urban Dynamometer Driving Schedule (UDDS), the average NH<sub>3</sub> emission rate for stoichiometric CNG engines was 930 mg/mi (equivalent to 578 mg/km), which is more than 10 times the highest NH<sub>3</sub> emission rates reported for stoichiometric gasoline light-duty vehicles.

### A.4 Summary of Mobile Source Ammonia Emission Rates

For gasoline light-duty vehicles, the more robust results are those from the remote sensing study of Bishop (2019) because the number vehicles studied was greater, and the results were similar in magnitude to other remote sensing studies. The Bishop (2019) results also showed that aged vehicles and surface street operation produced substantially higher NH<sub>3</sub> emissions. To facilitate comparisons to other studies, and to rates as modeled in MOVES, we converted the fleet average 0.43 g/kg-fuel (freeway) and 0.62 g/kg-fuel (arterial) emissions rates to mass per distance using the fleet average fuel economy of 22.0 miles/gallon (BTS, 2020) and a typical gasoline fuel density of 6.17 lb/gallon. This results in 55 mg/mi (freeway) and 79 mg/mi (arterial) or 34–49 mg/km. These results are at the high end of the dynamometer and PEMS testing results though nearly identical to the 46 mg/km average found by Livingston et al. (2009). So, the Bishop (2019) results seem the most reasonable

especially given that the greater number of tests conducted included higher emitting aged vehicles in the same fraction as found across the entire fleet.

**Table A-2. Heavy-duty NH<sub>3</sub> emissions (mg/mile) reported by Thiruvengadam et al. (2016). ND notes "not detected".**

Vehicle	UDDS	Regional	Near Dock	Local	Orange County Transit Authority	Refuse Truck
Stoichiometric CNG Tractor 1	380	570	240	990		
Stoichiometric CNG Tractor 2	820	980	2010	2200		
Stoichiometric CNG Tractor 3	870	910	1790	1480		
Stoichiometric CNG Transit Bus	890				950	
Stoichiometric CNG Refuse Truck	1710					1090
HPDI Dual-Fuel Diesel/Natural Gas Lean Burn Compression-Ignition	89	5	40	20		
2010 Diesel SCR Tractor	ND	ND	ND	ND		
2010 Diesel SCR Refuse Truck	ND					ND

NH<sub>3</sub> emissions for gasoline vehicle cold starts and cold conditions could be higher. Cold starts could add a significant increment of up to 100 mg per cold start based on one Euro VI vehicle test. Cold conditions below freezing (-7°C or 20°F) resulted in a 28–47% increase over those at 22°C based on a few Euro V and VI vehicles.

Aggressive driving could result in a 41% increase in NH<sub>3</sub> emissions according to one study of 34 US vehicles, but the results of Bishop (2019) demonstrated that arterial driving resulted in a similar 44% increase over freeway driving. So perhaps aggressive driving is incorporated in the Bishop (2019) remote sensing results.

Direct light-duty diesel vehicle emissions have been measured at about 8-12 mg/km by Suarez-Bertoa (2017 and 2014). It is unclear if these European emission standard vehicles were designed with the same technology as US heavy-duty diesel vehicles in terms of NH<sub>3</sub> slip control.

The most robust measure of heavy-duty diesel vehicle emissions was the adjusted (to a 100% SCR-equipped fleet) average of 0.14 g/kg-fuel from Haugen et al. (2018) because it was based on a larger fleet of 1844 measurements. To better compare heavy-duty diesel vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emissions measurements with other results, such as modeled in MOVES, the emissions per energy (kW-hr) or fuel consumed (kg) was converted to emissions per distance. Assuming a typical average fuel economy for larger heavy-duty trucks of about 7 miles/gallon (NHTSA, 2020) and an average fuel density of 3200 g/gallon (EPA, 2009) results in an approximate NH<sub>3</sub> emission rate estimate of 64 mg/mi (40 mg/km).

Table A-3 presents a summary of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions determined from this literature review to be the best estimates available. Original measurements in mass emitted per mass of fuel are also shown as mass emitted per distance using average fuel economy estimates. The MOVES model allows the fuel

economy to be calculated for all conditions, so NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in g/kg-fuel could result in different mg/mi than those shown in Table A-3 when considering different driving conditions.

Diesel vehicles have significant NH<sub>3</sub> emissions only when introduced (via urea injection) for SCR catalysts. To meet emissions standards SCR was installed only in post-2007 light-duty and post-2010 heavy-duty vehicles. Because light-duty gasoline vehicles have had TWC since the 1980 model year and the original measurements were made on the entire fleet, the NH<sub>3</sub> emission estimates shown in Table A-3 are expected to be representative of the entire current gasoline vehicle fleet.

**Table A-3. Summary of on-road vehicle NH<sub>3</sub> emission estimates.**

Vehicle Type	Model Years <sup>1</sup>	By Fuel Consumption (g/kg-fuel)	By Distance (mg/mi)	Reference
Light-duty gasoline	All TWC (>1980) Highway	0.43	~55	Bishop (2016)
	All TWC (>1980) Arterial	0.62	~79	
Light-duty diesel	<2007	N/A	0	Suarez-Bertoa et al. (2014, 2017)
	>2007	~0.144 <sup>2</sup>	16	
Heavy-duty diesel	<2010	0.003	~1	Haugen et al. (2018)
	>2010	0.141	~64	
Heavy-duty CNG	All	N/A	930	Besch et al. (2016)

1 Nearly all <2010 heavy-duty diesel vehicles used 2009 engines without SCR, and <2007 light-duty diesels were not likely SCR so NH<sub>3</sub> would not be introduced into the exhaust stream.

2 Assuming 30% better fuel economy than light-duty gasoline and diesel fuel specifications.

## A.5 References

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## APPENDIX B: SMAT RELATIVE RESPONSE FACTOR DESIGN VALUE SCALING RESULTS

### SMAT Output: UDAQ Configuration

Site ID	County	b_pm25_DV	f_pm25_DV
490030003	Box Elder	32.4	33.5
490110004	Davis	28.5	28.3
490353006	Salt Lake	33.4	34.0
490353010	Salt Lake	34.9	35.4
490494001	Utah	31.1	29.8
490495010	Utah	28.4	28.9
490570002	Weber	30.2	30.7

### SMAT Output: UDAQ Configuration

Site ID	County	b_crustal	b_EC	b_NH4	b_Ocmb	b_SO4	b_NO3	b_water
490030003	Box Elder	2.0	1.9	2.2	17.2	2.0	5.2	1.5
490110004	Davis	1.3	1.7	3.2	9.2	1.9	8.8	1.9
490353006	Salt Lake	1.6	1.9	3.9	10.3	2.2	10.7	2.4
490353010	Salt Lake	1.4	1.9	3.8	12.6	2.1	10.4	2.3
490494001	Utah	0.7	1.5	4.9	4.6	2.0	14.2	2.8
490495010	Utah	1.9	2.4	3.0	8.8	2.3	7.7	1.9
490570002	Weber	1.1	1.9	3.4	10.1	1.9	9.3	2.0

### SMAT Output: UDAQ Configuration

Site ID	County	f_crustal	f_EC	f_NH4	f_Ocmb	f_SO4	f_NO3	f_water
490030003	Box Elder	1.5	1.6	3.4	13.2	2.0	9.4	2.0
490110004	Davis	1.3	1.8	2.9	10.8	1.8	7.6	1.7
490353006	Salt Lake	2.2	1.8	3.6	11.9	2.0	9.8	2.2
490353010	Salt Lake	2.1	1.8	4.0	11.5	2.1	11.0	2.4
490494001	Utah	1.9	2.0	3.4	8.8	2.0	9.2	2.1
490495010	Utah	2.1	2.2	3.1	8.7	2.3	8.0	2.0
490570002	Weber	1.0	1.3	4.3	6.7	1.9	12.5	2.5

### SMAT Output: UDAQ Configuration

Site ID	County	rrf_crustal	rrf_ec	rrf_nh4	rrf_oc	rrf_so4	rrf_no3	rrf_water
490030003	Box Elder	0.75	0.85	1.57	0.77	0.99	1.81	1.38
490110004	Davis	0.96	1.08	0.89	1.17	0.96	0.87	0.89
490353006	Salt Lake	1.38	0.97	0.92	1.16	0.90	0.92	0.93
490353010	Salt Lake	1.53	0.96	1.05	0.91	1.02	1.06	1.05
490494001	Utah	2.69	1.26	0.69	1.93	1.02	0.64	0.76
490495010	Utah	1.11	0.94	1.04	0.98	1.01	1.05	1.04
490570002	Weber	0.86	0.70	1.28	0.67	0.98	1.34	1.23

## SMAT Output: Ramboll Configuration

Site ID	County	b_pm25_DV	f_pm25_DV
490030003	Box Elder	32.4	33.4
490110004	Davis	28.5	28.6
490353006	Salt Lake	33.4	33.2
490353010	Salt Lake	34.9	35.0
490494001	Utah	31.1	30.6
490495010	Utah	28.4	28.5
490570002	Weber	30.2	30.2

## SMAT Output: Ramboll Configuration

Site ID	County	b_crustal	b_EC	b_NH4	b_Ocmb	b_SO4	b_NO3	b_water
490030003	Box Elder	2.0	1.9	2.2	17.3	2.0	5.2	1.5
490110004	Davis	1.3	1.7	3.2	9.3	1.9	8.8	1.9
490353006	Salt Lake	1.6	1.9	3.9	10.3	2.2	10.7	2.4
490353010	Salt Lake	1.4	1.9	3.8	12.7	2.1	10.4	2.3
490494001	Utah	0.7	1.5	4.9	4.6	2.0	14.3	2.8
490495010	Utah	1.9	2.4	3.0	8.9	2.3	7.7	1.9
490570002	Weber	1.1	1.9	3.4	10.1	1.9	9.3	2.0

## SMAT Output: Ramboll Configuration

Site ID	County	f_crustal	f_EC	f_NH4	f_Ocmb	f_SO4	f_NO3	f_water
490030003	Box Elder	1.2	1.7	3.9	11.0	2.1	10.7	2.3
490110004	Davis	1.3	1.7	3.3	9.2	1.9	8.9	2.0
490353006	Salt Lake	1.6	1.9	3.9	10.3	2.1	10.7	2.4
490353010	Salt Lake	1.4	1.8	4.2	10.8	2.2	11.8	2.5
490494001	Utah	0.6	1.5	4.8	4.5	1.8	14.2	2.8
490495010	Utah	1.9	2.3	3.2	8.3	2.3	8.2	2.0
490570002	Weber	1.1	1.6	3.5	10.1	1.9	9.6	2.1

## SMAT Output: Ramboll Configuration

Site ID	County	rrf_crustal	rrf_ec	rrf_nh4	rrf_oc	rrf_so4	rrf_no3	rrf_water
490030003	Box Elder	0.63	0.90	1.78	0.64	1.07	2.07	1.56
490110004	Davis	1.00	0.99	1.01	0.99	1.01	1.01	1.01
490353006	Salt Lake	1.00	1.01	0.99	0.99	0.95	1.00	1.00
490353010	Salt Lake	1.04	0.97	1.11	0.85	1.03	1.13	1.11
490494001	Utah	0.89	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.89	1.00	0.99
490495010	Utah	1.01	0.97	1.05	0.93	1.03	1.06	1.05
490570002	Weber	1.00	0.85	1.03	0.99	1.00	1.03	1.03